Rant

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MASANORI MORITA

The other day, I went to an otolaryngologist to get inoculated against flower pollen. Inside the dilapidated building was an ancient doctor, an ancient nurse, and four ancient patients. The patient getting his nose fixed was stuck in a grimace of pain. The doctor pulled what appeared to be a medical instrument from the man's nose... and pulled, and pulled. By the time it was finally all out, the thing must have been 20 cm long. The doctor would insert this wire-like object all the way into the nose and pull it out, over and over. Oh God, stop it! I couldn't watch any longer, and turned away. Now it was my turn. "I'm only here to get shots for pollen," I stated clearly. "Yes, but that will depend on your predisposition to getting sick. I can't recommend it," he said. I replied, "I see. Well, I'll just be going, then," and I rose from the chair with no small amount of relief. But the doctor pushed me back down and said, "Now, now, let's take a look." He then produced the same wiry object again. "No, I think I'll be fine!" I protested. I batted his hands away, and for the first time in my life, ran out of the hospital. Say what you will. I'd rather live with pollen for the rest of my life.

JUMP COMICS

14

スタートライン

ROOKIES

ルーキーズ

森田まさのり

ROOKIES
ルーキーズ
14
森田まさのり
集英社

JUMP COMICS

14

スタートライン

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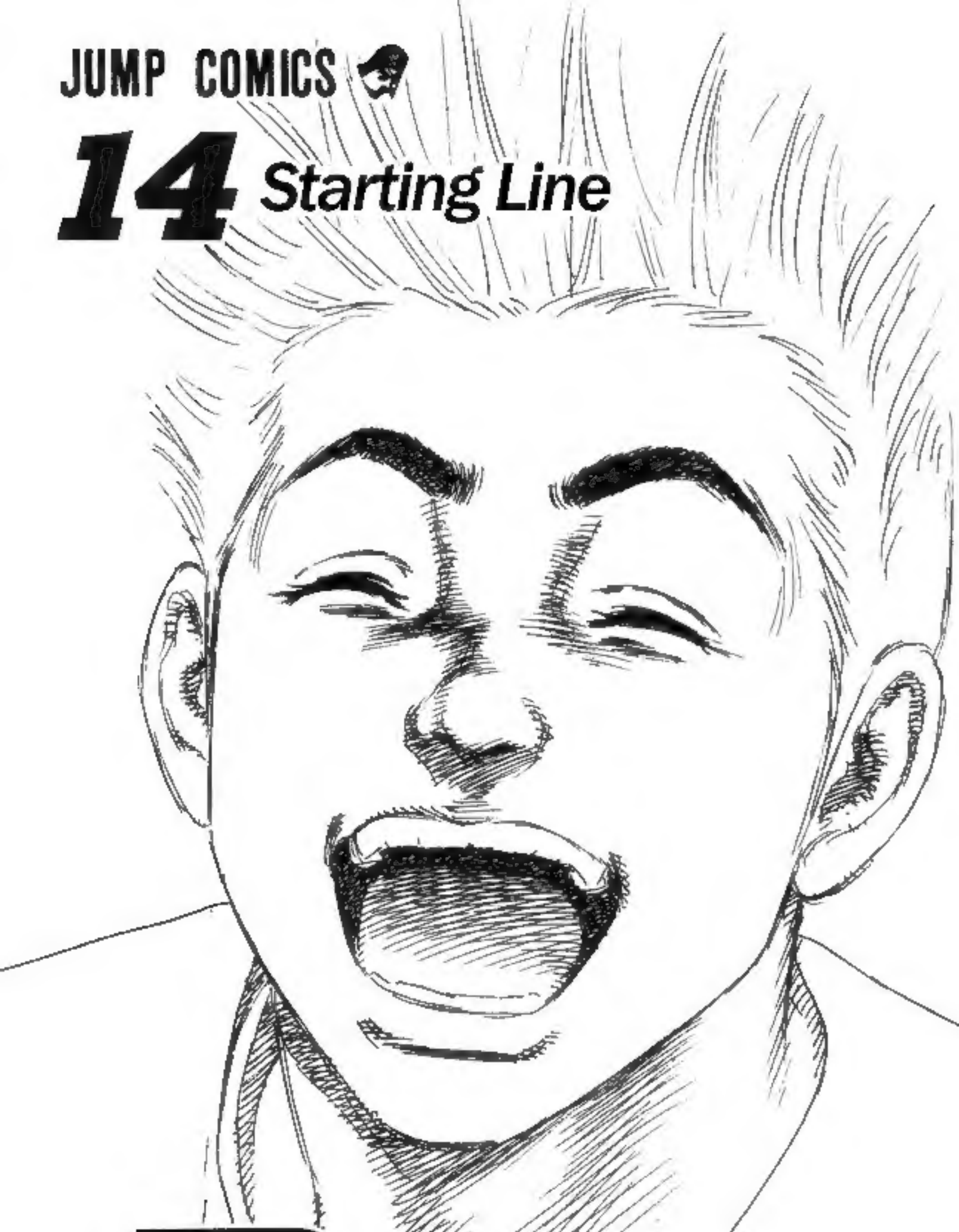
ROOKIES
ルーキーズ
14
森田まさのり

集英社

JUMP COMICS

14 Starting Line

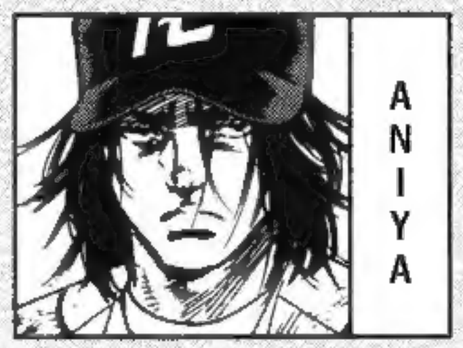


ROOKIES
ルーキーズ

森田まさのり

STUDIO Kit Room SINCE・1989

Character Introduction



The Story Thus Far:

New teacher Kawato has accepted his mission to reform the currently-suspended baseball team. He scrapes together a group of young toughs and clears the necessary hurdles to keep the team alive. The Nikogaku Baseball Team is off to a new start. They lost their first practice game in a heartbreaker, but the team now has the dream of the "Koshien" firmly implanted in their hearts.

It was an in-game fight that got the team suspended, a fight started by Enatsu, who now plays at Megurogawa High, Nikogaku's next practice opponent. Despite Megurogawa's overwhelming talent at every position, Nikogaku keeps it close through most of the game. But when Kawato reprimands the lifeless Megurogawa, their players come to their senses. Now faced with an enormous deficit, Nikogaku mounts a furious comeback in their final opportunity, the top of the ninth inning. When the team's secret weapon Hiratsuka blasts a pinch-hit grand slam, the lead has been regained. But in the bottom of the ninth, Enatsu's group of thugs has the stadium surrounded!

ROOKIES ルーキーズ

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Starting Line

LEGENDARY 5th Rookies SINCE · 2008 GROUP

STUDIO Kitman SINCE · 1989

WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON? WHY ARE YOU LOSING?

Vol.126

Requiem

GYAHAHA! WHAT A TERRIBLE GAME!

W-WHO ARE THEY ...?

.....

GYAHAHA, LIAR!

WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THE FIELD WAS.

!

SORRY FOR BEIN' LATE, ENATSU!

HEH.

D-DID YOU ACTUALLY ...

.....

THAT'S WHAT KIND OF A SHITHEAD HE IS...

T-THEY'RE NOT GOING TO CHARGE ONTO THE FIELD, ARE THEY?

W-WHAT? ENATSU-KUN CALLED THEM HERE?!

JUST SIT DOWN BEHIND THE PLATE.

HUH?! BUT THEY'RE GONNA ...

SIDDOWN, WAKANA.

I HEARD THAT, PITCHER! DON'T BE ACTIN' LIKE YOU'RE ALL COOL, UP THERE!

HIT IT, BITCH!

PLAY BALL!

C'MON, MAN!

I'VE EXPERI-ENCED IT BEFORE.
W-WAIT, I REMEM-BER THIS FEELING ...

PLEASE, JUST DON'T RUIN THE GAME...
A-ARE THESE GUYS GONNA CONTROL THEM-SELVES?

IT'S ENATSU... AGAIN...

AGAIN...

CRUSH THE BALL!

C'MON, ENATSU! DO SOME-THING!

IT WOULDN'T HAPPEN THE SAME WAY TWICE...

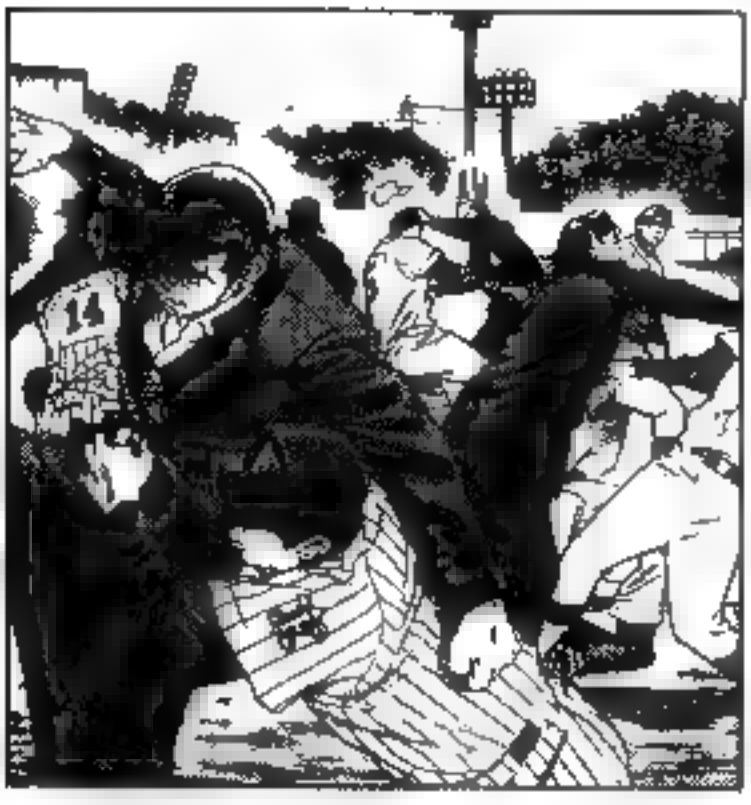
NO... IT WOULDN'T.

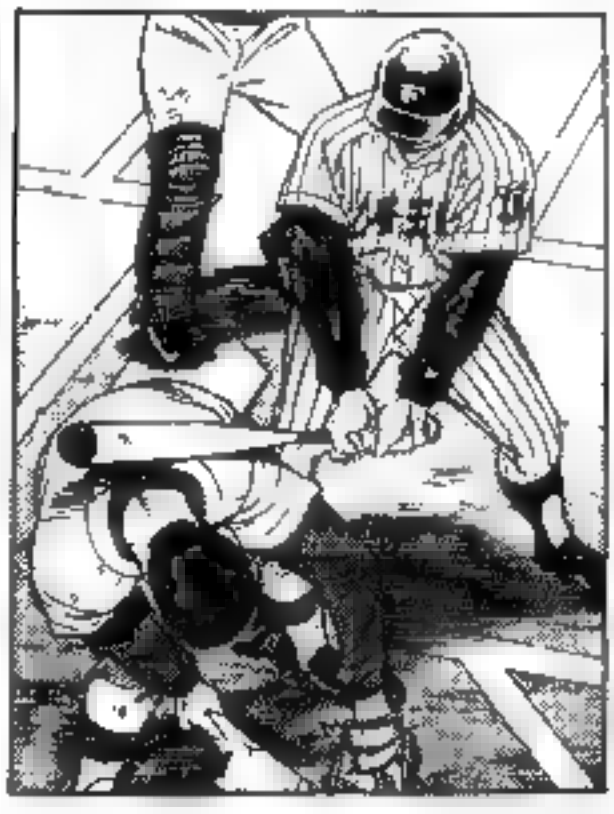
M

IT JUST COULDN'T ...

!!

BALL!





WHA...

RIGHT
WELL, THERE GOES THE GAME

WHA...

.....

I'M GONNA KILL HIM!

DON'T MOVE! WE'RE COMIN' TO GETCHA!

WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT ?!

!

!?

.....

ガン!!

SIT BACK DOWN, YOU DUMB SHIT-HEADS!

WHO TOLD YOU TO JUMP OUT?

.....

HUH...?

HO HO.

W-WHAT THE HELL, MAN?

DON'T TELL US WHAT TO DO...

ENATSU ...

JUST ENJOY THE GAME.

AND YOU'LL GET IT, IF YOU WATCH.

!

YOU TOLD US TO COME OUT AND SEE THE SHOW, DAMMIT!

SHUT THE FUCK UP, ENATSU!

I WANT ENTER-TAIN-MENT!

I'M GONNA KICK YOUR PIN-STRIPED ASS TO...

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ?!

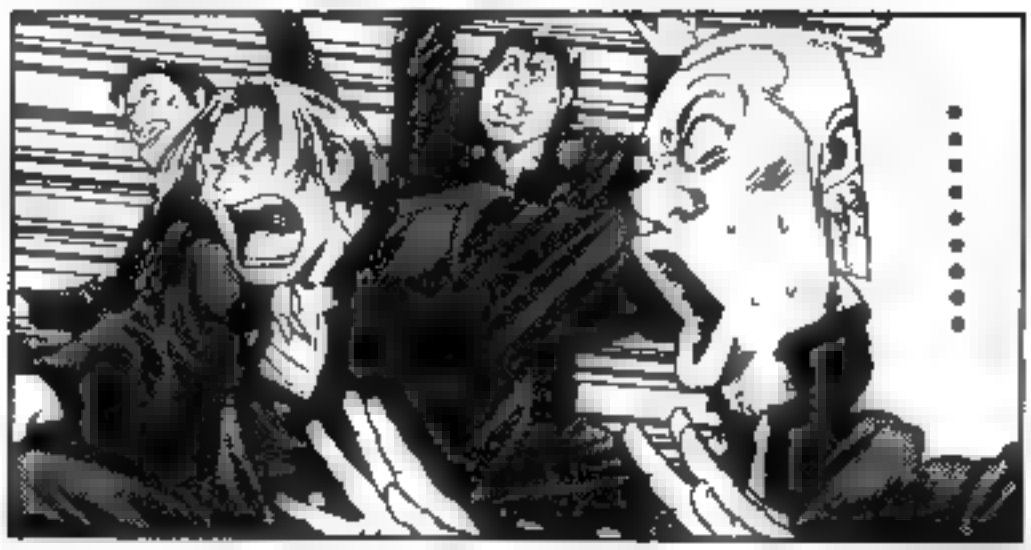
SENSEI! WHEN DID HE GET OUT THERE ?

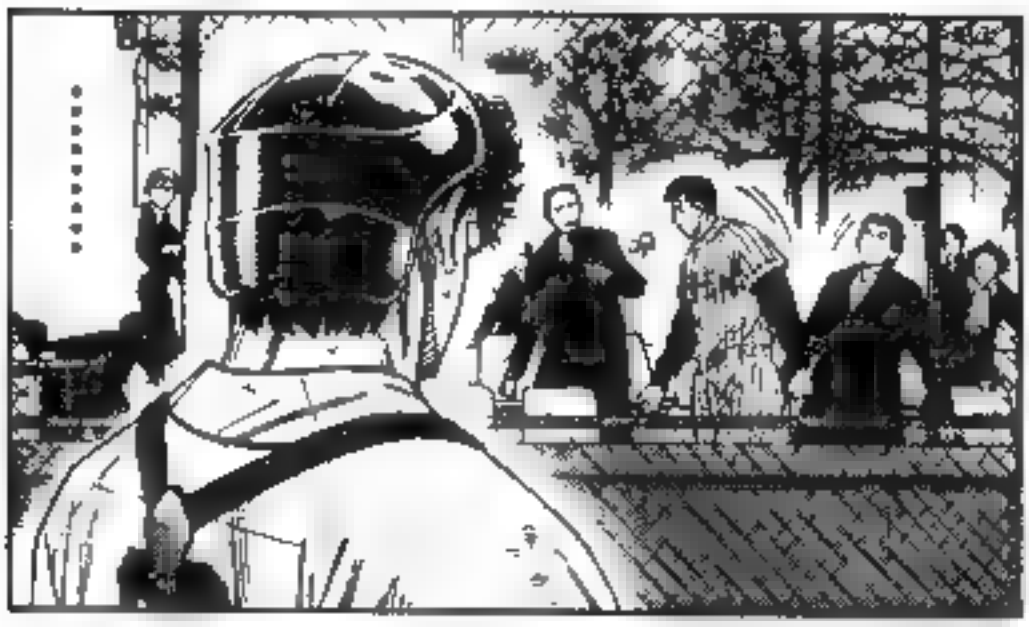
!

HOLY SHIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! PUT ME DOWN, OR I'LL...

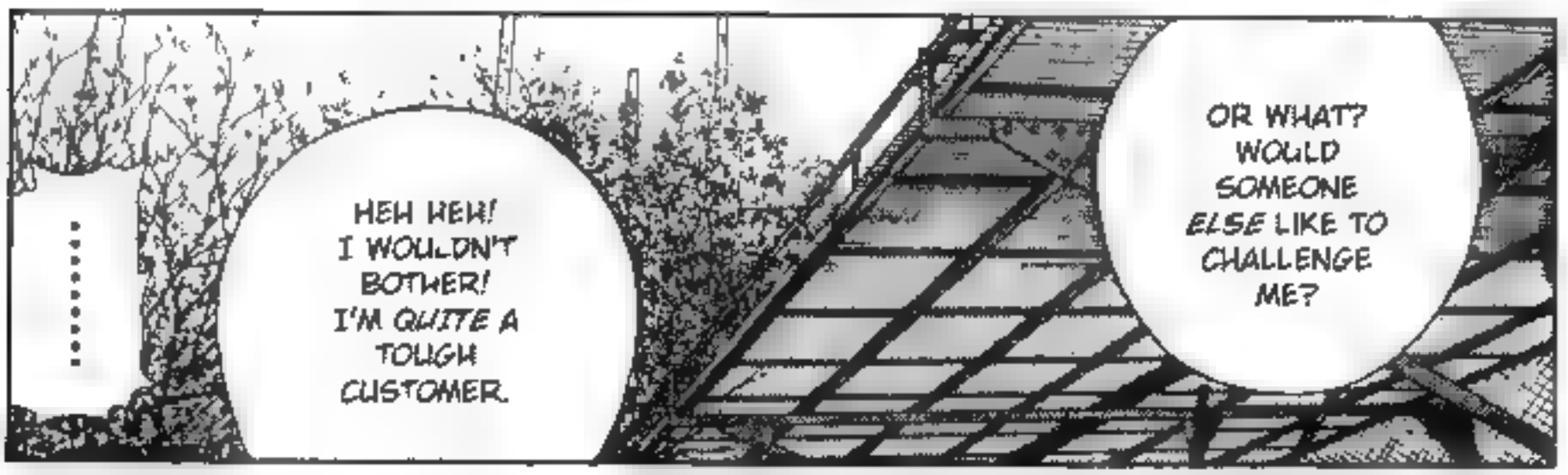
AAAAHH!

UFU





WE'RE JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PART
SIT DOWN, FOLKS.


HEH HEH! I WOULDN'T BOTHER! I'M *QUITE* A TOUGH CUSTOMER.
OR WHAT? WOULD SOMEONE *ELSE* LIKE TO CHALLENGE ME?

.....

.....

GUESS YOU'VE CHANGED A BIT, TOO...

HEH. WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE THROWIN' THE BAT AT THE WRONG GUY

.....

OKAY, ANIYA! TAKE IT AWAY!

1

SHUT THE FUCK UP, OR I'LL HIT YOU NEXT.

EUGH! NASTY!

ptu

.....

H-HEY! STOP THAT, YOU!

HEY

W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
ARE YOU SERIOUS? ENATSU DIDN'T SNAP, AFTER THAT?

.....

I HAVE TWO.
YOU DON'T HAVE A HIT TODAY.

YOU CAN'T HIT MY PITCHING
YOU CAN'T HIT ME.
NOT WITH YOUR SHITTY EXCUSE FOR TALENT.

SHUT UP...

BUT ANIYA THREW THAT BALL ON PURPOSE BECAUSE HE WAS BETTING THAT ENATSU WANTED TO LOSE THE GAME EVEN LESS.

ORIGINALLY, ENATSU INVITED THOSE GUYS SO THEY WOULD RUIN THE GAME.

HE KNEW HE DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE AT ANY COST..

HE KNEW ENATSU WAS DESPER-ATE. .

ANIYA KNEW...

HUFF

HUFF

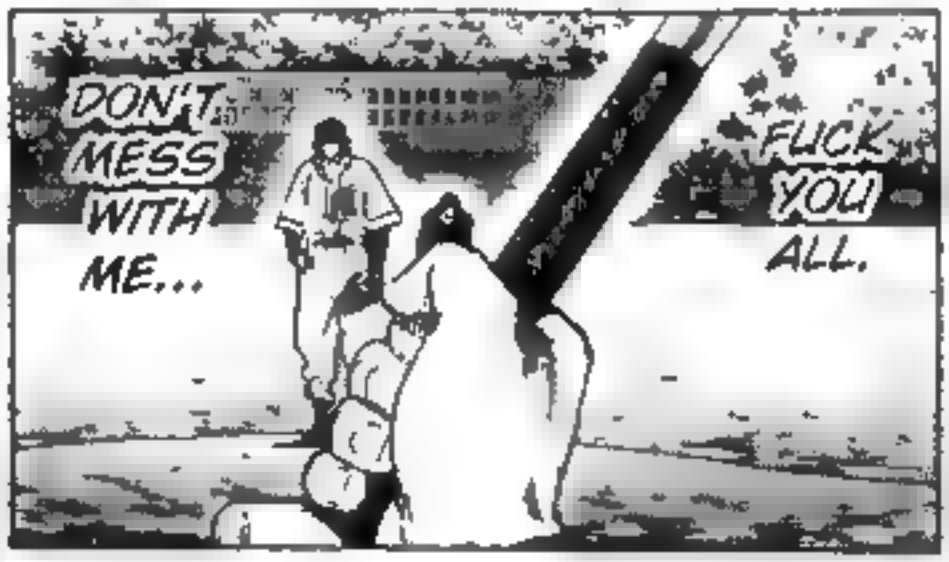
TOKYO

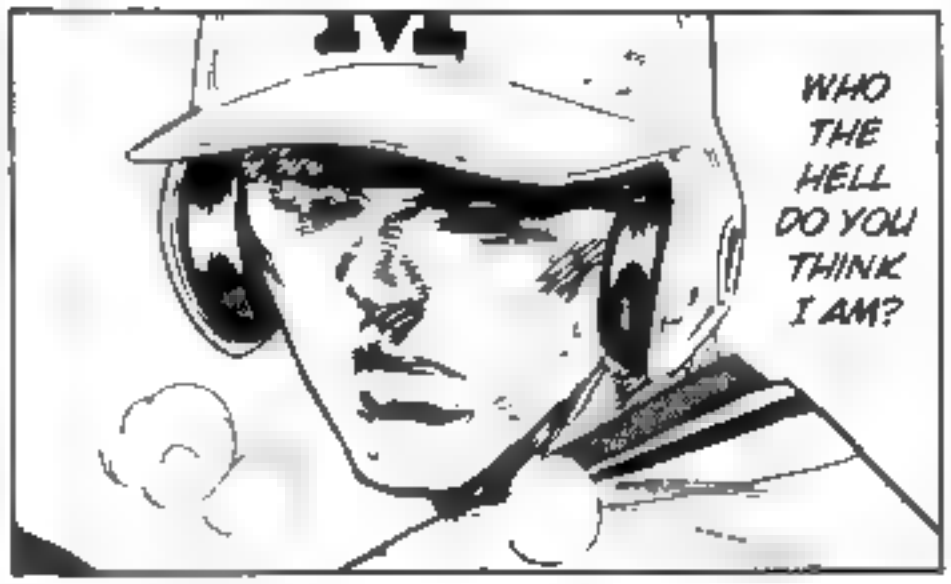
FUCK...
STRIIIKE!
TOKYO

YES!
.....

DAMN, THAT WAS FAST...

THIS ASS-HOLE...
THIS STUPID PIECE OF SHIT...


DON'T MESS WITH ME...
FUCK YOU ALL.


WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK I AM?

COULDN'T BEAT ME ANY DAY OF THE WEEK!

日黒川

KEI-CHAN ...

WHOA ...!

STRIIIKE!

HUFF

HUFF

DAMMIT ...

KAHH...

HAHH ...

M

FUCKIN' ...

DICK-HEAD...

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT ME ON THE FIELD.

YOU GOTTA AT LEAST BEAT ME IN A FIGHT.

RAAAAAHHH!

STRIKE THREE!

BATTER OUT!!

Rant

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Vol.127
Starting Line

THAT-TAWAY!!

YES!

WHOA!

HEH. TOO BAD.

.....

HUFF!

HUFF!

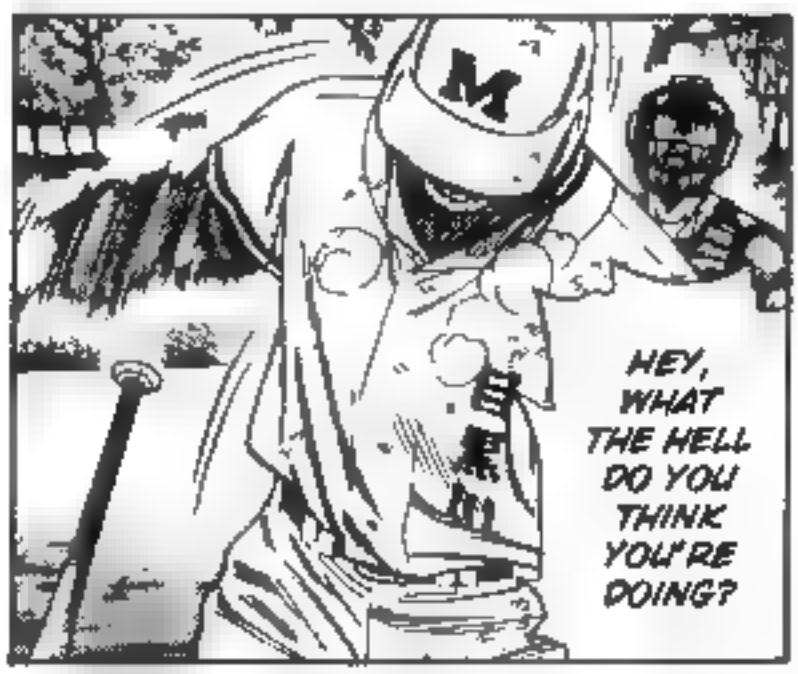
TWO MORE!

JUST TWO MORE!

HEAR THAT? GYA HA HA!
WORSE THAN A NOBODY.

DIE, YOU RETARD!
DID HE JUST STRIKE OUT? WHAT A FAG!
TOKYO
YOU'RE WORSE THAN A NOBODY!

WHOA.


HEY, WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

ENATSU LOST, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

HE CAN'T BLAME THOSE ON BEING TIRED. AND THAT LAST ONE WAS ALL FAST-BALLS.

YEAH.

ASIDE FROM BEING HIT BY A PITCH, HE STRUCK OUT THREE TIMES.

1

YOU WERE GREAT OUT THERE, KEI-CHAN.

YOU PAID BACK YOUR DEBT.

YOU COULD AFFORD TO BE HAPPIER ...

.....

.....

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

AAAGH!

HO HO.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

UMPH!

STRIKE THREE!

BATTER OUT!

I GOT MY ASS FOOLED!

H-HE LOOKED AT THE BALL . BUT IT WASN'T A CURVE ..

ptn

!

HMM?

WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON?

OH, DAMN!

I FEEL EMBARRASSED, JUST WATCHING.

MY, MY... THEY'RE PICKING UP AND LEAVING ...

SEE, THUGS ARE CONCERNED WITH PRIDE BEFORE ALL ELSE.

THAT'S JUST WHAT MEGUROGAWA HIGH'S ALL ABOUT.

THEY AIN'T GONNA ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH A BASEBALL TEAM THAT'S EMBARRASSING ITSELF.

GO, NIKOGAKU, GO!

ALL RIGHT, THEN!

.....

I THINK I'M GONNA CRY...

YIKES...

I NEED TO PULL IT TO-GETHER ...

S B O

チーム 得点 回

JUST ONE MORE OUT!

ONE MORE ...

GET HIM OUT!

O-OKAY, LAST ONE... SO, UH, YOU KNOW...

BA-BUMP BA-BUMP

ONE MORE...

WHEW...

.....

UMF!

UMF!

YEY!

YEY!

DAMN.
HE'S
LAST.

O-OKAY
LET'S
SEE THAT
STUFF

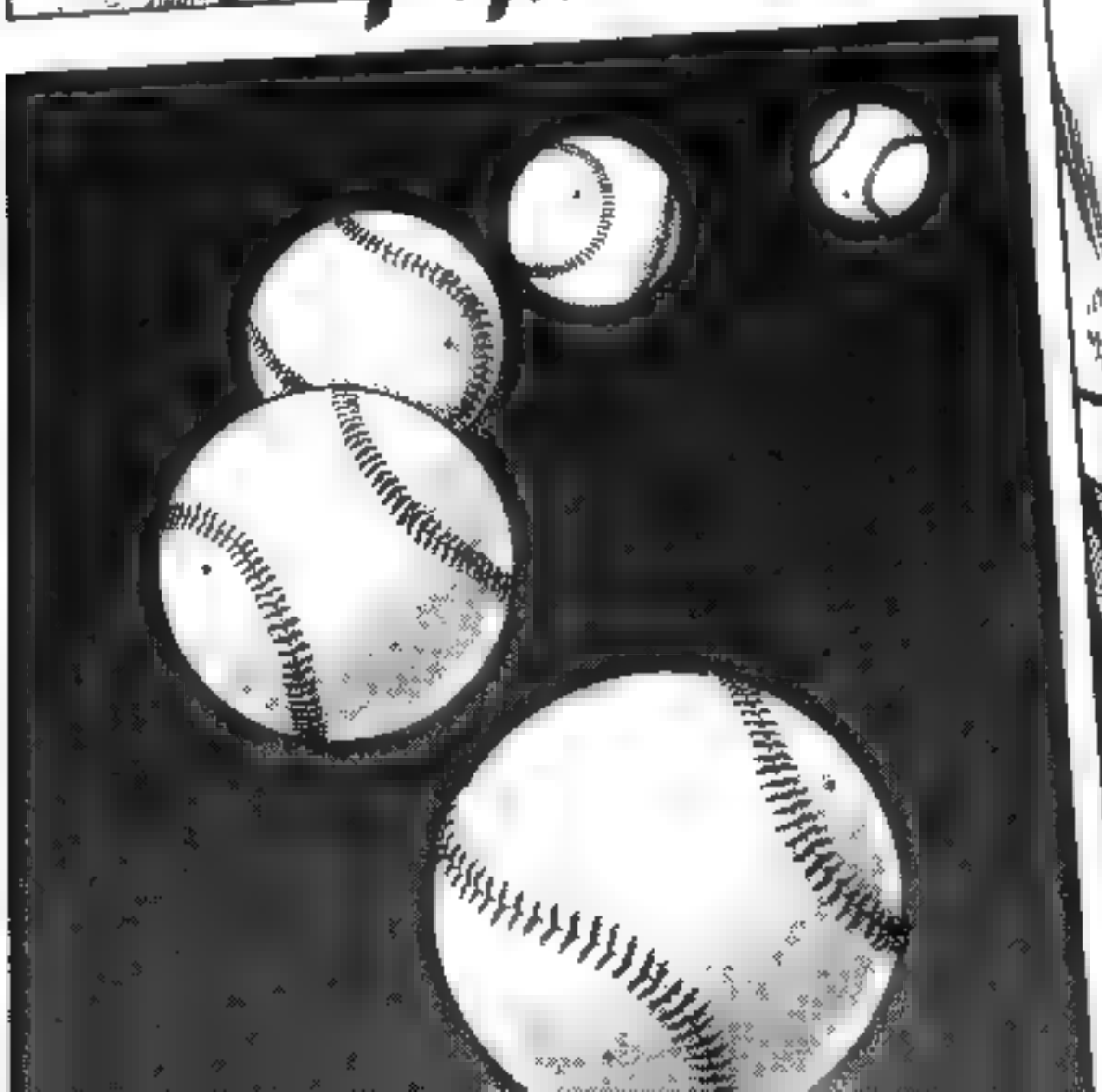
RRGH.

PLAY
BALL!
1

LET'S
DO THIS,
GUYS.
C'MON,
MAN...

.....

ドバッ!!
ドバッ!!
ドバッ!!



FOUL BALL!

WHA..

DON'T COME TO ME...

PLEASE!

DON'T COME...

IT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER WHAT PITCH I THROW HIM

DAMN! HE KEEPS HANGIN' ON.

BUT EVERY-ONE'S NERVOUS, NOT JUST ME...

A-AN!... ANIYAAA! D-DUDE, JUST DUDE, JUST CHILL OUT AND THROW THE THROWIN' BALL!

AND I CALL MYSELF THIS TEAM'S CAPTAIN!

NOT AGAIN! AM I FREAKING OUT AGAIN ...?

ONE OUUUUUUT !!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

DUDE, SHUT THE HELL UP!

I MEAN... TWO OUUUUU-ULTS !!!!

H-HUH...?

DUDE, YOU SCARED ME!

AH!

ALL RIGHT! TWO OUTS!

JUST ONE MORE!

LET'S FINISH THIS ONE OUT!

THAT WAS THE MOST EMBARRASSING THING I'VE EVER SEEN!

QUIT YELLIN' OUT THE WRONG THING LIKE THAT!

HA HA HA

MIKOSHIBA...

HUH? ON PURPOSE?

THAT'S JUST HOW HE ROLLS.

HE MESSED THAT UP ON PURPOSE.

OHH! THEY'VE FOUND THEIR VOICES AGAIN!

LIKE, COME ON, MAN. IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?

BUT FOR US, IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT DAY.

THIS MIGHT JUST BE A PRACTICE GAME...

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID, SENSEI.

HEY, BATTER BATTER! TWO MORE STRIKES!

LOOK AT THIS BATTER, HE'S TOO OLD TO BE IN HIGH SCHOOL!

HEH HEH...

I KNOW THE REAL MEANING OF OUR FIRST VICTORY.

I UNDERSTAND.

BEAT MEGUROGAWA.

SAY GOODBYE TO THE DAYS WHEN— WE WERE STUPID...

IT'S THE DAY WE FINALLY STAND ON THE STARTING LINE.

FINALLY, WE CAN BE JUST MORE BASEBALL-CRAZY JAPANESE KIDS, STRIVING FOR THAT KOSHIEN SPOT.

FINALLY...

THAT NIGHTMARE WILL BE JUST A THING OF THE PAST.

FINALLY...

FINALLY, WE'LL BE BACK AT ZERO.

WE'LL BE AT THE STARTING LINE!

110

OUT!

.....

GAME OVER!

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WE... WE WONN NN!!

YESSSSS!

EEEEEK!

Vol.128

The Sprouts of Winter

W-WE WON...

YEAHHHH!

WE. WON?

WE WON THE GAME!

YA-HOOOO!

WE DID IT!

.....

WE REALLY WON..

WE DID IT

WAAAAAAHHHH!

WAAAHHH!
WIPE YOUR FACE OFF!
GYAHA-HAHA! STOP CRYING, NIKO-SHIBA!
YEAAAAH! NIKOGAKU YEAAAAH!

.....

HO HO.

IT'S LIKE A DREAM.

I FEEL SO STUPID, CRYING OVER JUST AN INFORMAL GAME.

HEH HEH.

YES. THEY DID IT

THEY WON... THEY FINALLY WON ..

BUT...

HMM?

WAAAAH!

STOP CRYING, DAMMIT!

WAIT, WAIT! WE'VE GOT TO LINE UP!

COME ON, BACK IN YOUR LINES AT THE PLATE!

H''

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE FRICKIN' GAME'S OVER.

W-WHAT, DOES HE THINK HE'S STILL PITCHING?

HEY, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

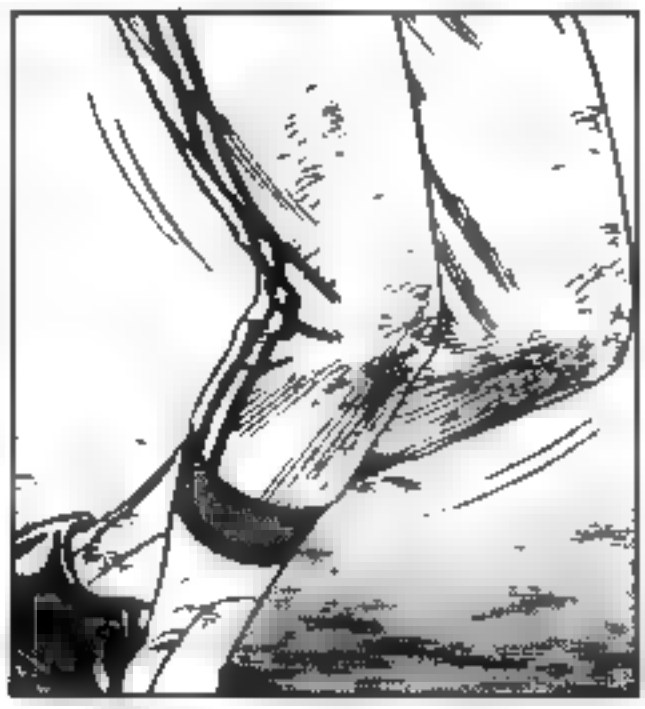
GYA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

THE GAME'S OVER, GENIUS! YOU LOST!

ENATSU
...

...?

!



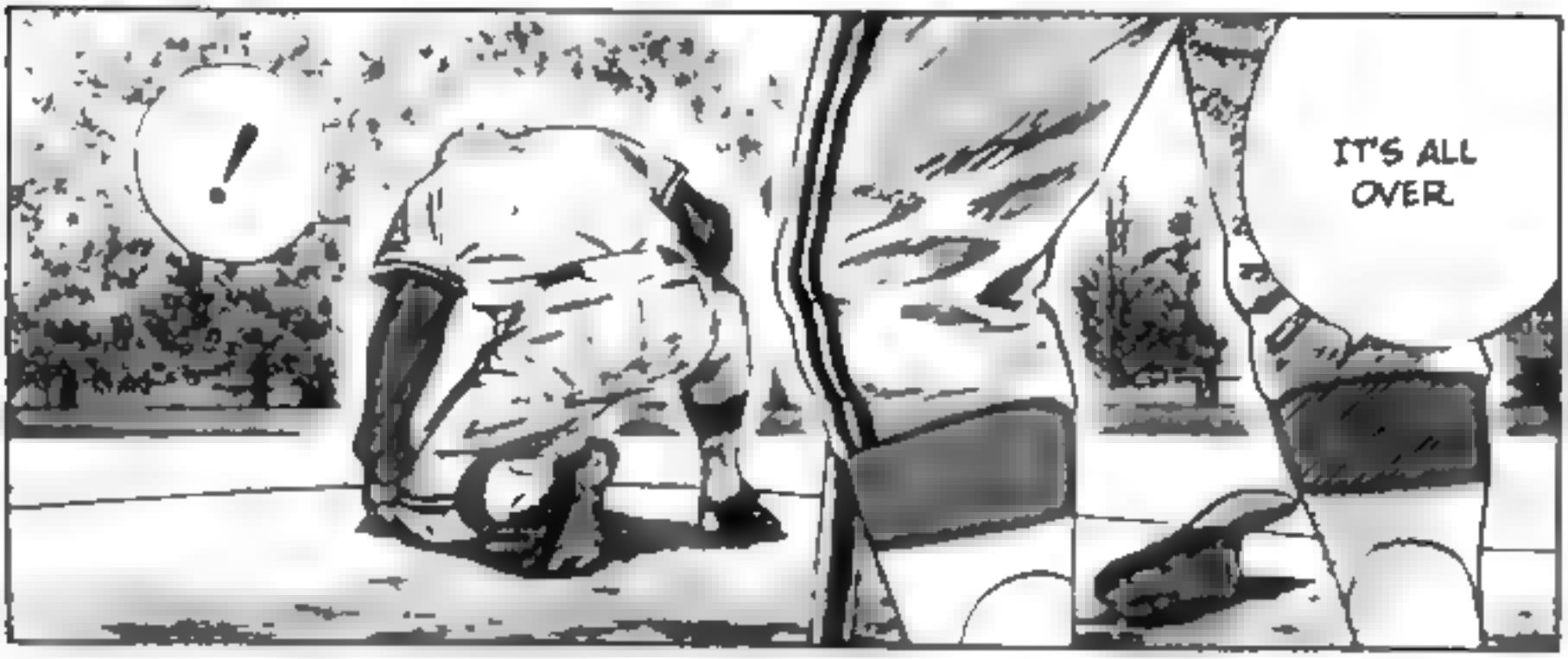
...

...

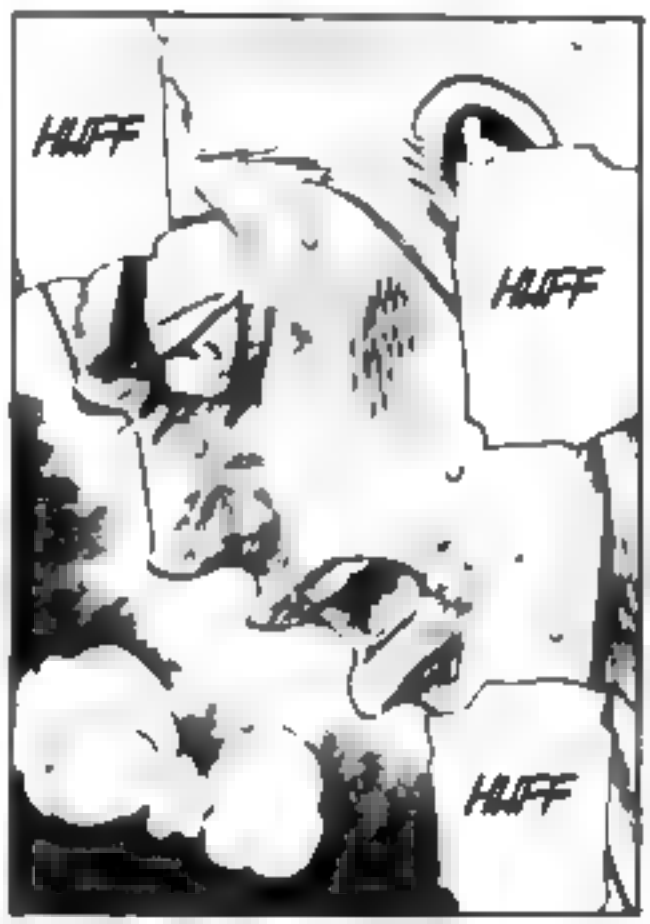
RGH...

F-
FUCK-
IN' A...

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


!
IT'S ALL
OVER.

THAT'S
QUITE
ENOUGH
FOR ONE
DAY
YOU
THREW 141
PITCHES.


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE FINALLY COME TO LOVE THE GAME

!?

I AIN'T... LOST YET...

SHUT UP...

I AIN'T LOSIN' TO PEOPLE LIKE THEM...

NOT ME...

I AIN'T...

HO HO.

.....

.....

THEY ARE PROOF THAT YOU LOVE THE GAME OF BASE-BALL.

THAT FEELING OF FRUSTRATION, THE DESIRE NOT TO LOSE.

.....

ARE THE REST OF YOU FRUSTRATED, TOO?

HO HO.

KEH.

THAT'S RE-TARDED.

SAWA-MURA-SENSEI.

ptu

.....

.....

Camps

IT MIGHT NOT EVEN BE NECESSARY, HOWEVER.

I'VE WRITTEN DOWN EVERYTHING I NOTICED ABOUT THIS GAME HERE, ON THIS PAD.

HO HO.

.....

I SAY THIS BECAUSE IF YOU STILL LOVE THE GAME, YOU SHOULD HAVE NOTICED THE SAME THINGS.

I'M GETTIN' SICK OF YOU... SHUT UP OR I'LL **MAKE** YOU SHUT UP!

SHUT YOUR TRAP, GEEZER!

TOKYO

YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE AND PRIDE

YOU HAVE EXPERI-ENCE AND TALENT

AND YOU HAVE LOVE FOR BASE-BALL...

YOU WILL NOT RESORT TO SUCH VIOLENCE AGAIN.

HO HO.

THERE IS NOTHING YOU LACK IN ORDER TO ..

.....

AT LEAST, NOT ON THE FIELD.

AND YOU KNEW THAT.

HO HO.

.....

THERE'S NO NEED TO SWING YOUR BAT AT ANOTHER PERSON.

THE FIELD IS WHERE YOU COME TO PLAY BASEBALL.

GROWN ?!

.....

MY, HOW YOU'VE GROWN, IN JUST A SINGLE DAY.

THERE WERE TIMES WHERE JUST A SINGLE WORD FROM KONO HELPED SETTLE YOU DOWN.

.....

.....!

NO MATTER HOW WILD YOUR PITCHING WAS AT THE BEGINNING, YOU CALMED DOWN ONCE YOUR TEAMMATES COLLECTED AN OUT

THAT'S GROWTH.

YOU SEE? THEY MIGHT BE SMALL THINGS, BUT THEY SHOW YOUR BODY RESPONDS TO GOOD TEAM PLAY

IT CANNOT MATCH THE BRILLIANT PERFECTION OF ONE MIGHTY BOULDER.

YOU SEE, NO MATTER HOW HARD AND STRONG A COLLECTION OF PEBBLES MIGHT BE,

.....

DO YOU BOYS UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE MISSING?

.....

YOU STARTED BASEBALL BECAUSE YOU LOVE IT.

AND YOU'VE BECOME AS GOOD AS YOU ARE THROUGH HARD WORK

KAWATO-SENSEI SAID IT BEST

TO WHEN YOU LEARNED THE JOY OF PLAYING AS A TEAM. .

RETURN TO THAT FIRE, THE FIRST TIME YOU PLAYED THE GAME...

LET'S GO BACK TO OUR ROOTS.

HO HO.

LET'S RETURN TO WHEN WE WERE STARTING

AND MAKE OUR WAY TO THE KOSHIEN.

AND THIS TIME, LET'S TAKE A GOOD HARD LOOK AT OUR GOAL, PLAY AS A TEAM JUST LIKE NIKOGAKU DID.

.....

.....

.....

AAH! WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

S- SNIFF ..

H-HUH? WHERE'S *HE* GOING?

WHAT THE. .

RAAAAAHHHH!!
GOD-DAMMIT !!

DAMMIT!

DAMMIT!
DAMMIT!

ENATSU-KUN...

.....

AAAAAAH!

ENATSU ...

.....

HUFF

HUFF

ANIYA ...

HUFF

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE STRENGTH TO KEEP GOING!

THAT'S WHAT *I'M* SAYING!

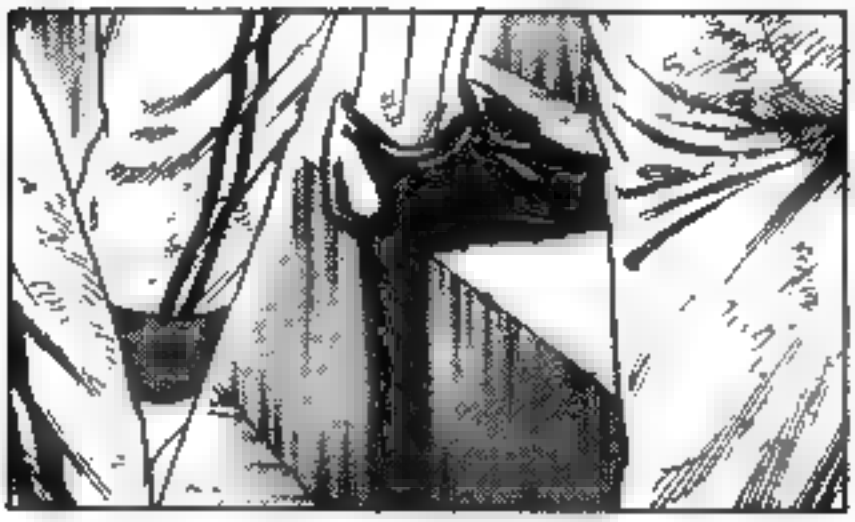
YOU'RE GOIN' DOWN. WE AIN'T GONNA LOSE FOR REAL..

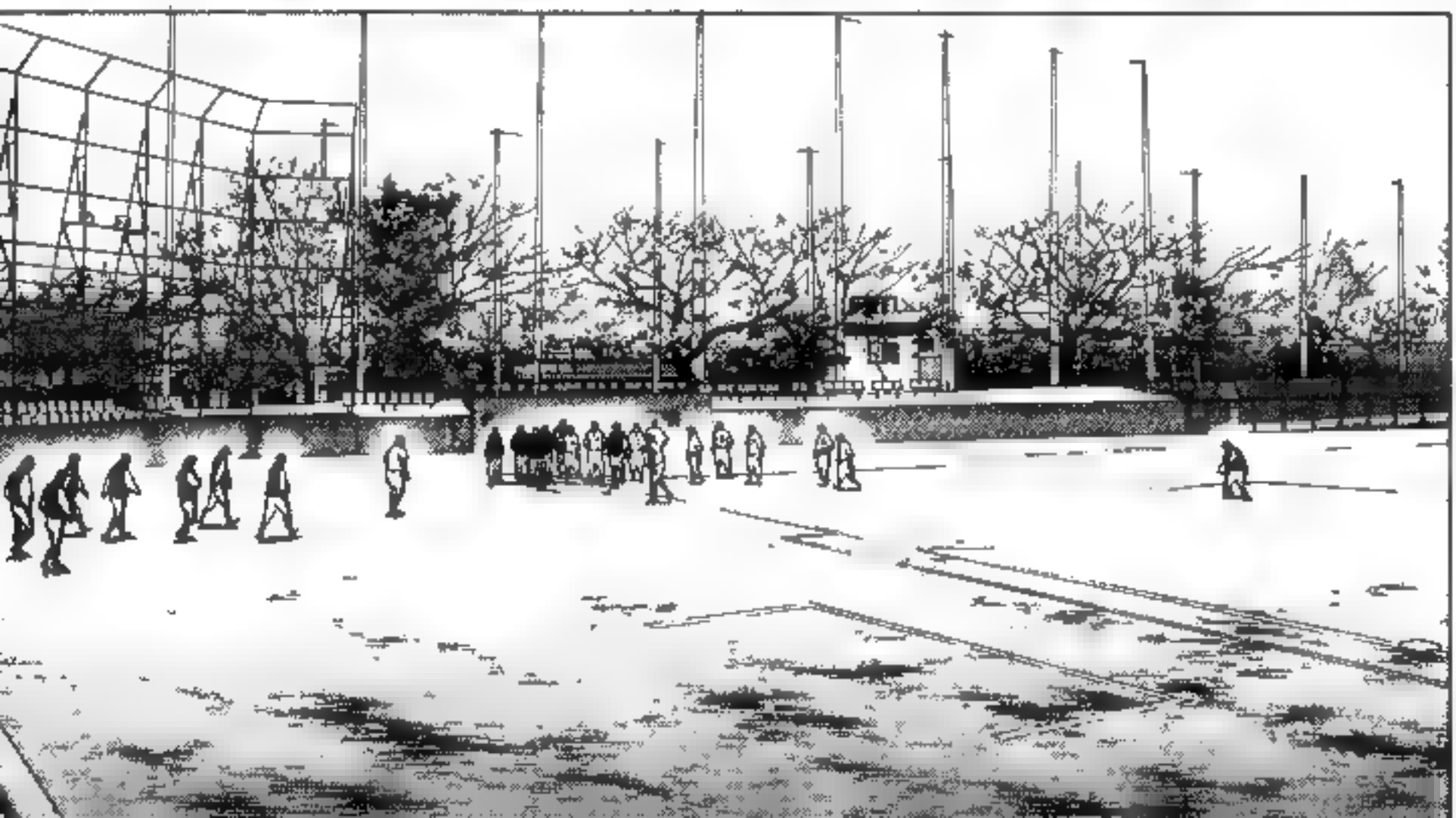
IF WE MEET IN A REAL GAME .

HO HO.

WHAT ?!

MEGURO-GAWA AIN'T NEVER GOIN' DOWN TO YOU IDIOTS WHEN IT REALLY COUNTS.





FINALLY, WE AT NIKOGAKU HAVE MADE OUR WAY TO THE STARTER LINE IN THE RACE TO GLORY!

FINALLY!

ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE!

YEAH, WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE WON THE GAME

MAN, THESE GUYS WEREN'T NOTHIN' SPECIAL AT ALL

UH, WE *DID* WIN THE GAME.

YOU JUST SAID "STARTER LINE," HUH?

MAN, DON'T BE SHOUTIN' WHEN WE'RE ALL TIRED.

STARTING LINE!

IT WASN'T *THAT* SPECIAL.

HA..
HEH HEH...

YEAHHH! NIKOGAKU RULES!
MEOW-WWW!
WHOA!
YEAAA AAH! WOO-HOOOO!

SHUT UP AND SCRAPE, BOY!
H-HOW ARE WE GONNA CARRY ALL THIS DIRT HOME?
THIS IS KOSHIEN DIRT!

H'll
H'll
H'll

Rant

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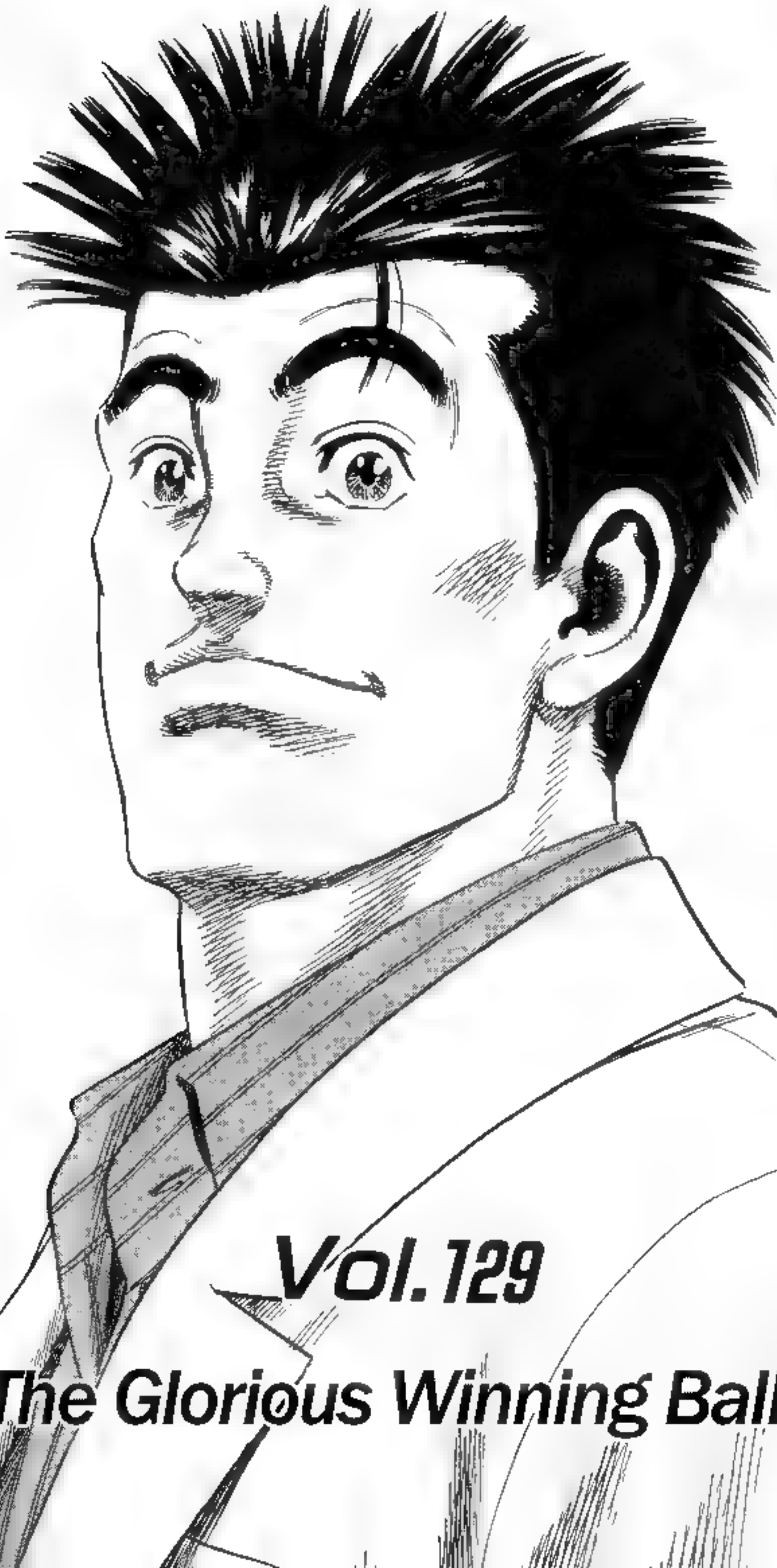


Vol.129

The Glorious Winning Ball

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

THEY ACTUALLY WON?

YEAH, AND IT WAS AGAINST MEGURO-GAWA.

THAT'S BULL-SHIT. IT'S STUPID.

FIRST THEY KILL OFF THE TEAM AND DRIVE OUT ALL THE SERIOUS MEMBERS LIKE US, THEN THEY PIECE IT BACK TOGETHER AND THEY'RE *HEROES* ALL OF A SUDDEN?

FOR REAL? MAN, AND IT'S ONLY BEEN LIKE THREE MONTHS SINCE THEY STARTED!

CRAZY? ARE YOU KIDDING?

THAT'S CRAAAAZY!

THERE AIN'T KARATE KOSHIEN, MAN!

WHO CARES? WE'RE HAPPY DOING KARATE, NOW.

!

W-
WHAT'S
UP WITH
YOU,
EMOTO
?

CAN YOU
GET TO THE
KOSHIEN
WITH
KARATE?
SHOW ME!

IF
ONLY THOSE
JACKASSES
HADN'T
JOINED. . I
WOULDA.

I
WOULDA
STILL
BEEN.

SHIT!

HMPH
...

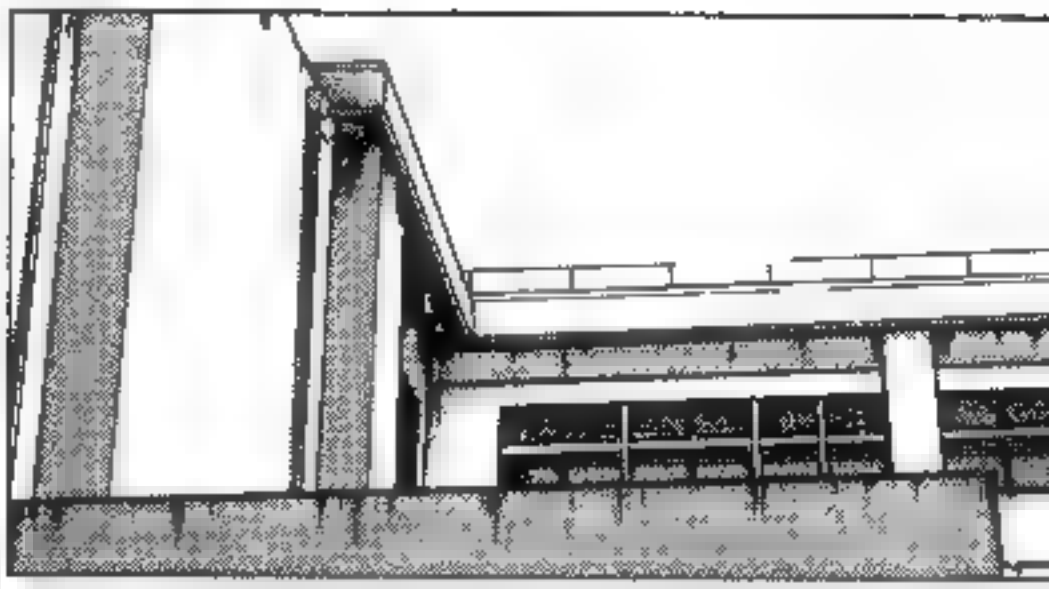
.....

.....

YOU CAN'T!

I'MONNA KEEP THIS ONE

THAT'S A TEAM TREASURE! WE'RE GONNA DISPLAY IT IN THE CLUB-HOUSE!



SO, THIS WAS THE WINNING BALL

NO, MAN! DON'T DRIVE IT'S VALUE DOWN!

OH YEAH, I OUGHTA SIGN MY NAME ON THIS BALL...

GIVE IT HERE.

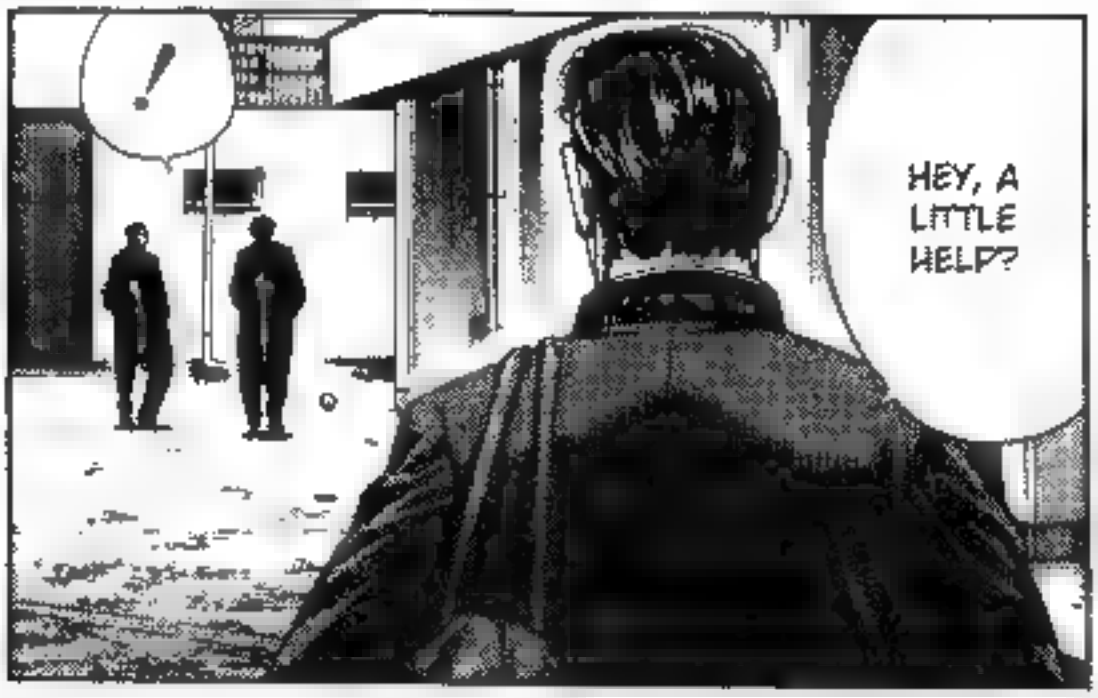
WHAT ?!

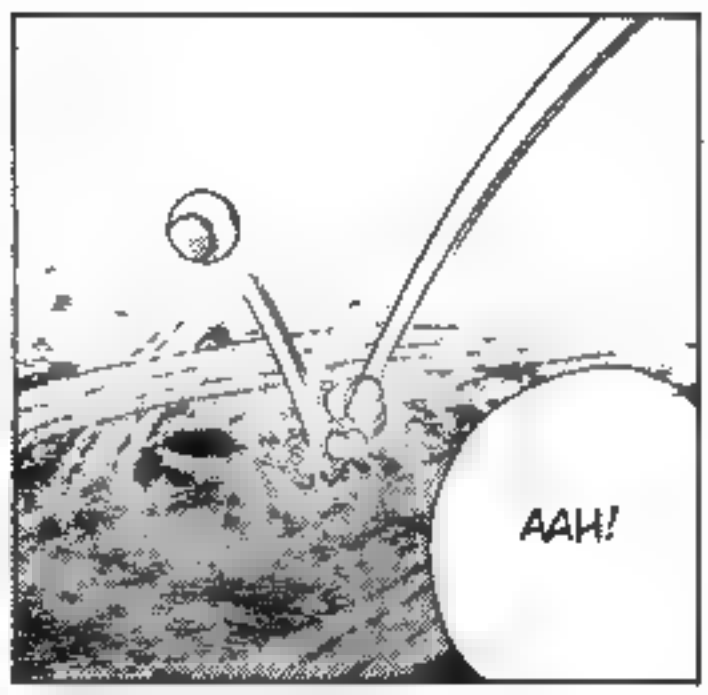
WE DON'T GOTTA MAKE WAY FOR ANYONE, NOW WE'RE THE GREAT AND MIGHTY NIKOGAKU BASEBALL TEAM.

JUST LIKE KAWATO SAID, THE PAST S IN THE PAST.

MAN, WE ACTUALLY WON!

HEH HEH...


!
HEY, A LITTLE HELP?


AAH!

OH!

IT'S "BASEBALL PLAYER," YOU TOOL.
TOSS IT HERE, SENPAI! SHOW ME THAT FORMER BASEBALLER STYLE!
.....

S-SENPAI
HUH? THAT GUY WAS ON THE TEAM?

HEY, WHOA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

KEH JUST BECAUSE YOU WON A SINGLE GAME DON'T MEAN SHIT.

WHAT ?!

HUH?

S- STOP IT, WAKANA!

GET BACK HERE! YOU DON'T TOSS MY...

HEY, WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT?!

HMPH

I BARELY EVER SAW HIM AT PRACTICE OR ANYTHING, EVEN BACK THEN.

I KNOW THAT GUY HE'S IN THE SECOND YEAR.

SHEEIT...

PSHH. PATHETIC.

.....

THEY'RE JUST JEA..OUS OF US, MAN.

RING RINGLE RING

YEY!

WE JUST DON'T LIKE THAT CRAPPY CHANT!

YEY!

COME ON, I WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICES!

LET'S GO, NIKO-GAKU!

OH, JUST...

.....

HUH? WHAT'S UP, MIKO-SHIBA?

YEY!

YEY!

SCHOOL RULES REQUIRE YOU TO JOIN A CLUB, SO THEY'RE ALL DOING DIFFERENT THINGS, NOW

IF WE HADN'T MESSED EVERYTHING UP, THEY'D STILL BE ON THE BASEBA... TEAM.

WHAT? YOU WANNA *GO APOLOGIZE* TO THEM?!

BECAUSE THEY'RE THE ONES WHO GOT SCREWED THE WORST!

ARE YOU CRAZY? WHY WOULD WE DO THAT?

WHY ARE WE SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS?

I'M RIGHT.

YEAH, BUT THEY *DECIDED* TO QUIT.

BECAUSE WE PRETTY MUCH *FORCED* THEM TO!

EVERYTHING WILL ONLY BE MADE RIGHT ONCE WE'VE APOLOGIZED AND WON THEIR FORGIVENESS, AND GOTTEN THEM BACK ON THE SQUAD.

WE HAVEN'T BEEN FORGIVEN AT ALL.

YOU WANT THEM BACK ?!

THEY'RE NOT STRANGERS! THEY WERE MEMBERS BEFORE WE SCARED THEM AWAY!

ARE YOU NUTS?! YOU WANT TO BRING TOTAL STRANGERS ON THE TEAM?!

BACK ...?

.....

WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING, ANYMORE ?!

THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS! THAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD!

THEY'VE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT BASEBALL, MAN!

KOBA-YASHI?

I RAN INTO KOBAYASHI-SENPAI THE OTHER DAY

HE FINALLY GOT THE GRIP IN HIS LEFT HAND BACK.

HE WAS ALL EXCITED ABOUT BEING ABLE TO PLAY AGAIN.

WHO?

THAT'S THE GUY YOU BEAT UP AT THE END.

HE WAS HAPPY THAT KAWATO KEPT HIS PROMISE.

HE HAD TEARS OF JOY IN HIS EYES.

OHHH, NOW I REMEMBER...

WHEN I TOLD HIM WE BEAT MEGURO-GAWA IN A GAME, LAST WEEK...

HEY! DON'T STOP, PEOPLE! KEEP UP!

YEY!

YEY!

YEY!

YEY!

YEY!

AHHH, DON'T STOP!

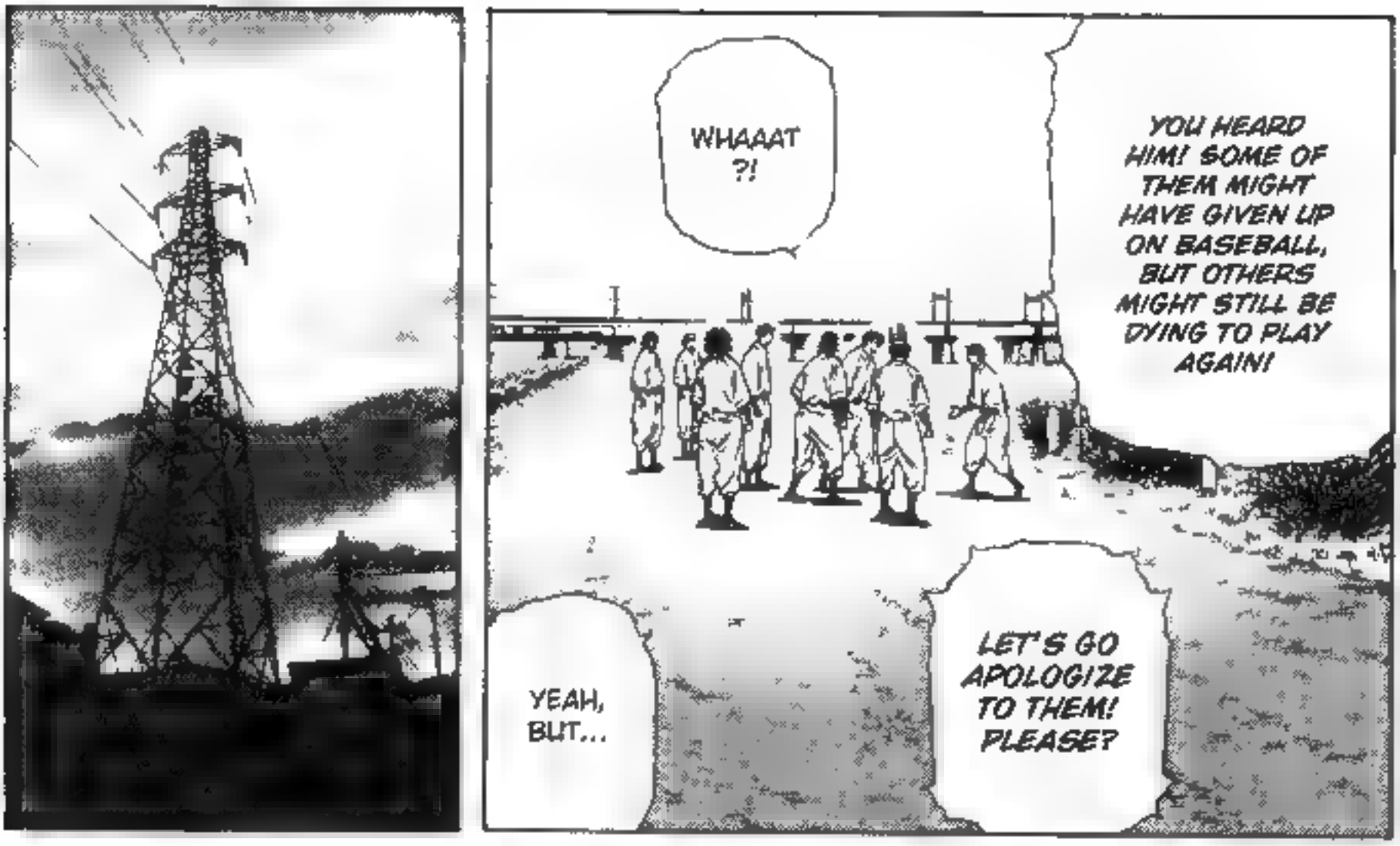
AAGH!

PROMISE?

.....

I'M GONNA KEEP YOUR BASEBALL TEAM SAFE.

YOU CAN TRUST ME.


WHAAAT ?!
YOU HEARD HIM! SOME OF THEM MIGHT HAVE GIVEN UP ON BASEBALL, BUT OTHERS MIGHT STILL BE DYING TO PLAY AGAIN!
YEAH, BUT...
LET'S GO APOLOGIZE TO THEM! PLEASE?

Sign. Baseball

N-NO, WAIT! YOU CAN'T!

GOD-DAM-MIT!

OH... JUST TO FUCK WITH US, YOU MEAN?

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THOSE SECOND-YEARS! THEY COULD HAVE SPARE KEYS!

LISTEN TO ME, MAN. YOU JUST DON'T ...

THIS IS HOW WE HAVE TO MAKE AMENDS!

WE NEED TO APOLO-GIZE FOR EVERY-THING!

EVEN IF THEY DID DO IT, IT'S NOT OUR PLACE TO GET ANGRY AT THEM!

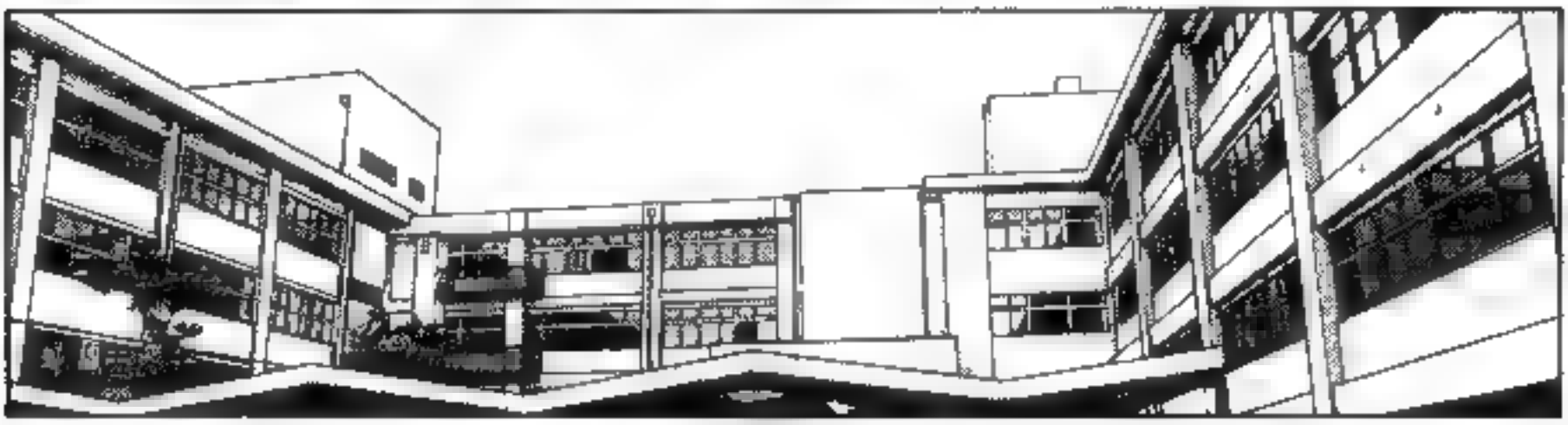
WHAT ?!

.....

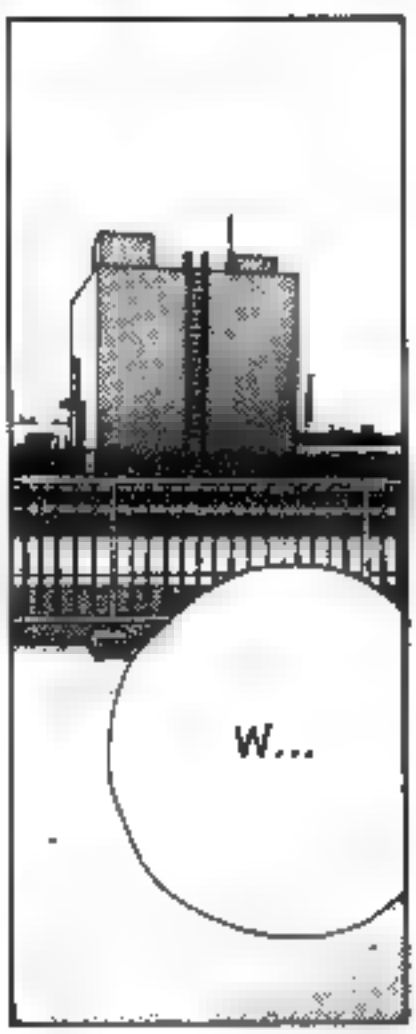
.....

WE CRUSHED THEIR DREAMS!

C'MON, GUYS...
PLEASE...



SORRY.
SORRY.
WE'RE VERY SORRY!


W...

HMPH

HEH! I WAS *WONDERING* WHAT YOU WERE DOING, BRINGING US OUT HERE

T-THOUGHT THEY WERE GONNA BEAT US UP

WHAT?!

..SENPAI

W-WE WANT YOU TO COME BACK..

P-PLUS ...

.....

TSH.

DON'T SAY IT IF YOU DON'T MEAN IT

.....

.....

YOU AIN'T GONNA KEEP THIS CLUB UP!

MOVE IT.

PFFF! YOU THINK I WANT TO PLAY BASE-BALL EVER AGAIN?

I'M A BUSY MAN.

.....

.....

AND I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT NO GAME BALL!

DON'T YOU SEE? THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE LIKE!

AND THAT'S FINE! WE CAN'T CHANGE THEM!

S-SHIT ...

NOW I WISH I *HADN'T* SAID IT ...

THEY DIDN'T CARE ABOUT BASEBALL TO BEGIN WITH.

THAT'S WHY THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT US, EITHER.

BUT FIRST, LET'S MAKE SURE WE FINISH OUR APOLOGIES.

THAT'S RIGHT. ALL WE CAN DO IS TRY OUR BEST.

I'M GOIN' TO THE GODDAMN KOSHIEN.

WELL, I'M GONNA SEE THAT WE DO!

THAT ASSHOLE SAID WE'D NEVER LAST AS A TEAM.

I CAN UNDERSTAND WANTING TO FIND THE GUY WHO STOLE THE BALL, AND *KILLING* HIM, BUT APOLOGIZING?

NOOOO! YOU DON'T GET IT!

YES, OF COURSE!

WHAT?! TO EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM?!

COME ON, MAN! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

OH, THAT FILTHY BASTARD! HE DIDN'T SHOW UP!

HEY, WHERE'S SHINJO ?!

SLAM DUNK

D-
DUDE..
HE'S
GONNA
KILL
YOU...

.....

HUFF.

HUFF.

H-HEY,
EMOTO...

YOU
WANT US
TO PLAY
WITH YOU
AGAIN?!

AND
AFTER
ALL
THAT...

.....

.....

HOW
HARD IT
WAS FOR
US TO
LEAVE..?

DO YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEA..

HOW
COULD
YOU
EVER
UNDER-
STAND
?!

UU

HUFF.

.....

HUFF.

.....

SH..
SHINJO

ドカッ

AAAAAHH!

ドカッ

S-
STOP IT,
EMOTO!

ドカッ

HRRGH
...

SNIFF

.....

.....

SOB

.....

DON'T YOU QUIT.

DON'T YOU *DARE* QUIT NOW.

GOD-DAM-NIT!

JUST WATCH WHAT WE DO, NOW.

...WE WON'T.

YOU DIDN'T USED TO BE LIKE THAT

.....

DAMMIT, MAN...

URRGH ...

Rant

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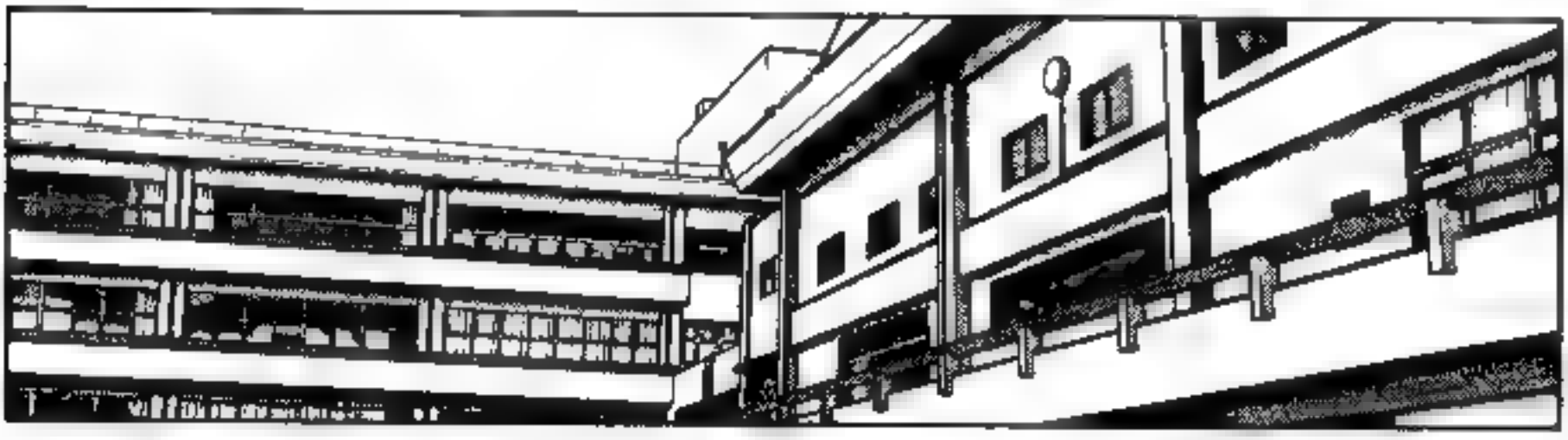
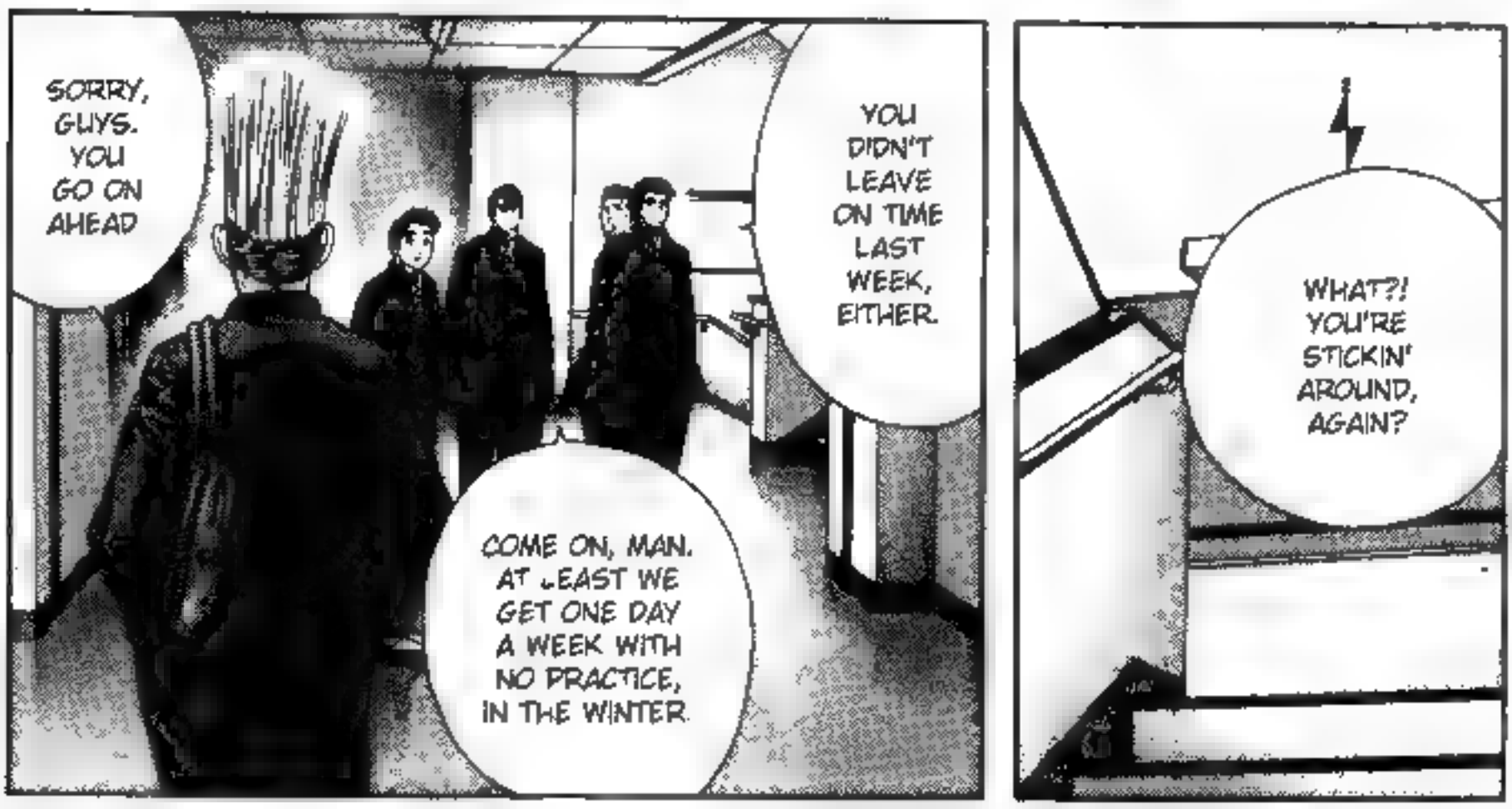
Vol.130

Wednesday Sprinter

SCREW THIS ASSHOLE. ONLY TRYING HARD WHEN HE'S SHOWING OFF FOR P.E. CLASS.
I HATE HIM.
THAT WAS CRAZY, SEKI-KAWA!
YOU COULD BE ON THE OLYMPIC TEAM!
MAN, DON'T BE SULKIN' I AIN'T TRYIN' UNLESS THE HAIR IS DOWN...




SORRY, GUYS. YOU GO ON AHEAD
COME ON, MAN. AT LEAST WE GET ONE DAY A WEEK WITH NO PRACTICE, IN THE WINTER.
YOU DIDN'T LEAVE ON TIME LAST WEEK, EITHER.
WHAT?! YOU'RE STICKIN' AROUND, AGAIN?

HEY! YOU LOOKED FLUSTERED FOR A SECOND!

I DON'T BUY IT! THAT'S GOTTA BE IT!

SHUT UP, YOU GUYS! JUST LEAVE, ALREADY!

I KNOW THAT.

YOU CAN'T EVEN STAY BEHIND AND PRACTICE, BECAUSE THE BASEBALL TEAM LENDS ITS FIELD SPACE TO THE TRACK TEAM ON WEDNESDAYS.

N- NO, I DIDN'T!

W- WHAT?!

WAIT A MINUTE. *DON'T* TELL ME YOU GOT A GIRLFRIEND

FWEET

FWEET

FWEET

FWEET

WHOA! SEKI-KAWA!

MOVE, DAMMIT!

HE'S SO FAST.

MAN, LOOK AT THAT SPRINT

SHAA-AAA!

YEAH, I AIN'T TAKIN' NO CRAP FROM A BASEBALL PLAYER!

SHIT, I GOTTA MEET THAT CHALLENGE!

GYA HA HAHA HA!

SHUT UP, THAT'S THE BASEBALL TEAM'S CHANT!

GO, NIKOGAKU, GO!

COME ON, PEOPLE! I WANNA SEE SOME LIFE OUTTA THIS TEAM!

ONE MORE TIME!

THEY SURE HAVE.
THINGS SURE HAVE BEEN LIVELY, EVER SINCE SEKIKAWA CAME AROUND TO PARTICIPATE ONCE A WEEK.

HOW MUCH OF YOUR PRACTICE WERE YOU GOING TO WASTE?
I'M NOT WASTING TIME.
I'M RESTING.

WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S DOING, CALLING THE SHOTS? HE'S ON THE BASEBALL TEAM!

FUJIKAWA-KUN!

AND WHAT'S WITH THAT STUPID HAIR?
THOSE ARE INTERVAL RUNS. WE'RE NOT MEASURING TIMES, YOU MORON.

WHAT? NO YOU DIDN'T.
HEY! I TOLD YOU NOT TO SIT ON THE PITCHER'S MOUND!

BAH.

I'M SORRY, SEKIKAWA-KUN.

HMPH.

OH! YOU TOLD ME ABOUT IT, BUT I FORGOT TO PASS IT ON!

SORRY, FUJIKAWA-KUN, GET OFF!

WELL, I AIN'T GONNA.

FUJIKAWA'S JUST WORRIED THAT YOU'RE GONNA STEAL HIS SPOT AS THE BEST SHORT-DISTANCE RUNNER ON THE TEAM.

HEH HEH. DON'T GET SO BENT OUT OF SHAPE, SEKIKAWA.

HUH?

BY THE WAY! LET ME GIVE YOU MY PITCH AGAIN...

I'M SURPRISED YOU FELT LIKE JOINING OUR PRACTICE, TOO.

.....!

WHY DON'T YOU QUIT THE BASEBALL TEAM AND *REALLY* SHOW US WHAT YOU CAN DO HERE?

MEH. IT'S A WEDNESDAY. GOT NOTHIN' ELSE TO DO.

IF YOU START TAKING SERIOUS, SPECIALIZED TRAINING, YOU COULD BE AN OLYMPIC RUNNER!

I'M GOING TO BE FRANK.

BUT YOU'RE SUCH A GREAT NATURAL SPRINTER THAT IT'S PRACTICALLY A WASTE TO LEAVE YOU PLAYING THAT SPORT.

TRUE, YOU GUYS MIGHT BE OFF ON A GOOD FOOT WITH YOUR INTENTIONS TO REACH THE KOSHIEN. .

YOU CALLIN' THE KOSHIEN NOTHING SPECIAL .. ?

ER, NO. . JUST IN COMPARISON TO THE OLYMPICS!

AIM FOR THE *WORLD!*

YEAH! NONE OF THIS SMALL BEANS KOSHIEN STUFF.

... BEANS ?

SMALL ...

O-OLYMPIC.. ?

WE'RE ALL JUST TRYING TO GET BETTER! THERE'S NOTHING THAT SAYS ONE IS BETTER THAN THE OTHER!

A-ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, I'M SORRY!

WHA. .? NO..

HEY! DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ME, MAN! I AIN'T STUPID!

O-OF COURSE. IT WAS MY FAULT.

I APOLOGIZE, FURUSAWA-SENSEI. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

!

K... KAWATO-KUN!

HEY! LET GO, SEKIKAWA.

EVERYONE ON THE TEAM WANTS YOU

WELL, I'LL BE WAITING ON YOUR ANSWER, SEKIKAWA.

L-LOOK, I'M NOT GONNA.

.....

.....

!?

HA HA HA! THERE'S NO REASON TO WORRY ABOUT IT

YOU WANT TO MAKE ME INTO A BACK-STABBER?

C-COME ON, MAN! DON'T BE STUPID!

YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE, HAVE YOU?

I HAVEN'T. BUT I DON'T SEE WHY I'D REALLY NEED TO KEEP IT A SECRET.

I KNEW YOU WERE COMING TO TAKE PART IN THE TRACK AND FIELD TEAM'S PRACTICES.

Y-YOU DID?!

IF...

AND THIS IS *JUST* AN "IF"...

WHAT IS IT?

.....

IN FACT, I'M HAPPY FOR YOU. I LIKE THAT YOU'VE FOUND SOMETHING ELSE TO DEDICATE YOURSELF TO.

NOBODY CARES WHAT YOU DO IN YOUR FREE TIME.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

IF I WAS TO QUIT THE BASEBALL TEAM, AND DO TRACK INSTEAD...

I'LL GLADLY SUPPORT YOU IN ANY CHOICE YOU MAKE.

THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WRONG WITH CHANGING YOUR DREAMS.

.....

!

IF YOU'RE TELLING ME THIS OUT LOUD, THAT SAYS YOU'VE REALLY BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT

.....

IF YOU'VE REALLY FOUND A NEW DREAM FOR YOURSELF DOING THAT, THEN THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.

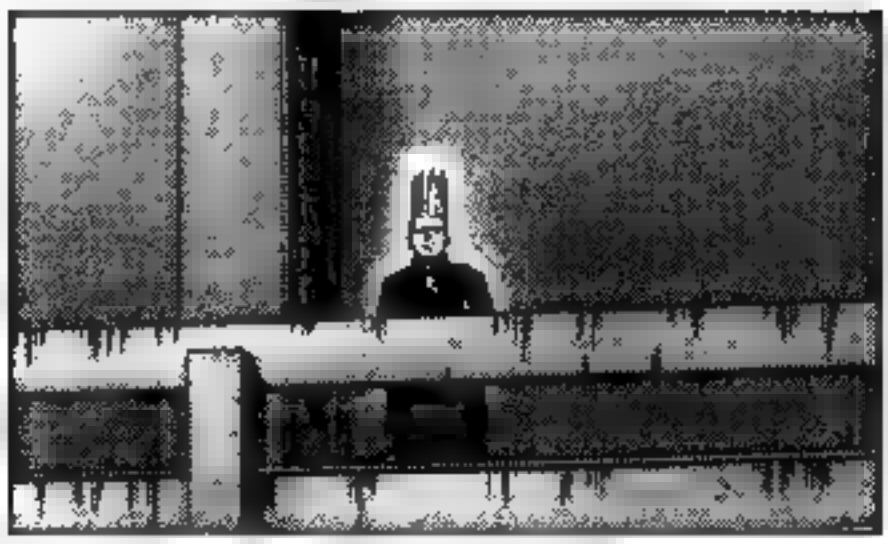
!?

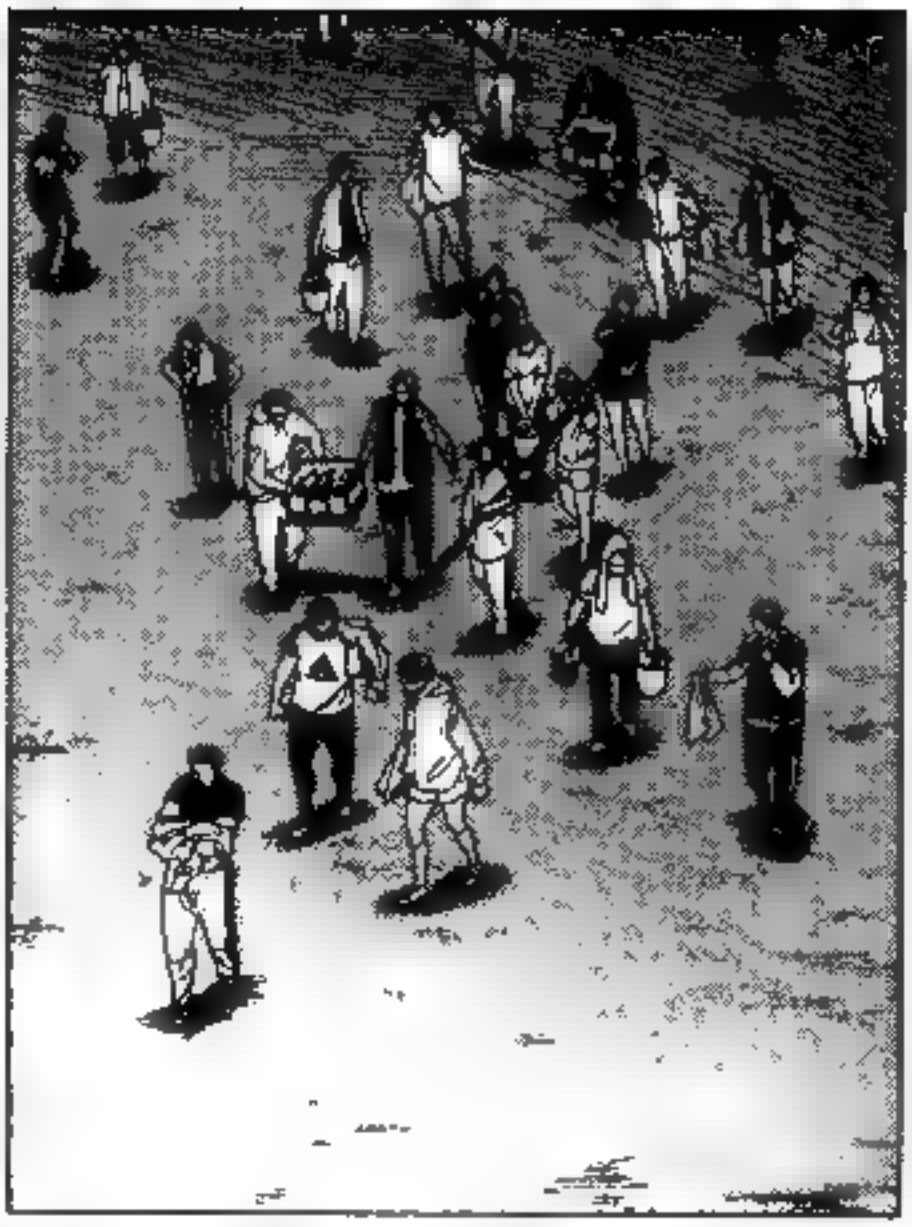
BUT I AIN'T A BACK-STABBER LIKE THAT!

.....

...BUT...

.....





TOMOYO-
CHAN...

NO... NO,
I'M NOT...
I'M NOT A
BACKSTABBER...

.....

GOOD LUCK, SEKI-KAWA-KUN!

HUH?

.....

UH?

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, BITCH?!

DAMMIT, YOU'RE ON THE MOUND AGAIN!

!

BAH.

MUTTER MUTTER

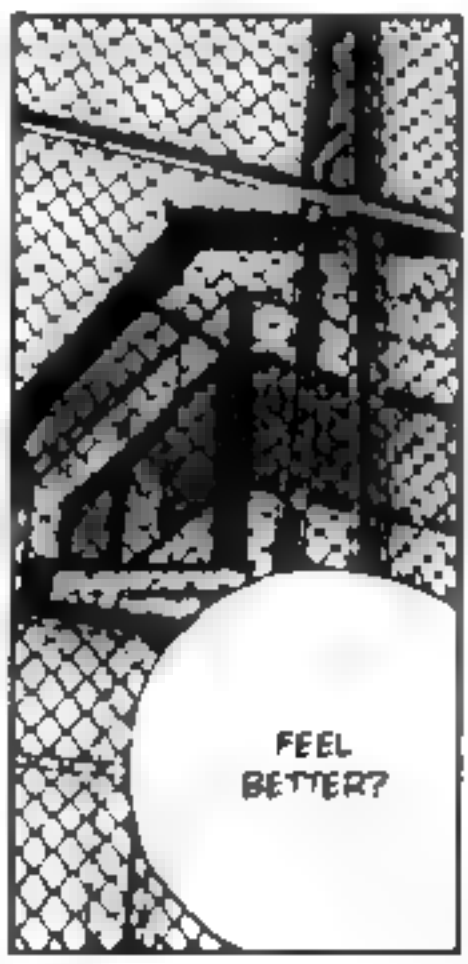
A-AGH!

JUST PATHETIC YOU AREN'T CUT OUT FOR ATHLETICS.
HA HA HA! PATHETIC, MAN.

RRGH.
U

.....
CRAMPED MY LEG
AAAGH, MY LEG.
AHH, SHIT
AAAGH.

.....
IS THE PAIN GOING DOWN?


FEEL BETTER?

.....

SORRY ABOUT FUJIKAWA-KUN. HE CAN BE A JERK

EVERYONE ELSE IS REALLY HAPPY ABOUT YOU, THOUGH.

THEY THINK WEDNESDAYS ARE A LOT MORE FUN, NOW.

.....

U

HE'S JUST WORRIED AND UPSET, BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONLY PERSON ON THE TEAM WHO COULD RUN THE 100 IN UNDER 11 SECONDS, UNTIL YOU CAME ALONG.

YOU HAVE YOUR OWN GOALS TO REACH, OF COURSE.

BUT THAT WOULDN'T WORK.

.....

FORGET I SAID THAT

.....

IF ONLY YOU COULD JUST COME AND JOIN THE TRACK TEAM.

U-UH, YOU KNOW ...!

HUH?

U

U

U

OH YEAH. DID I LEAVE MY CELL AT YOUR PLACE, YESTERDAY?

HUH..?

YOU ALWAYS DO, ALL THE TIME. WHY DO YOU EVEN HAVE ONE?

HEY, WERE YOU GONNA FINISH THAT UP TODAY, TOMOYO?

HURRY UP. I'M ABOUT TO TIME MY HUNDREDS.

OKAY, JUST A MINUTE.

!

UMM-MM...

WHAT ?

YOU DIDN'T LOOK AT MY TEXT MESSAGES, DID YOU?

AND WHY? IS THERE SOMETHING I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO SEE, IN THERE?

N-NO! HELL NO!

.....

OF COURSE NOT! YOU KNOW I'M A BETTER PERSON THAN THAT!

DON'T TELL ANYONE, OKAY?

...A COUPLE?

ARE YOU TWO...

PLEASE DON'T HATE HIM, OKAY?

YOU KNOW, HE DOES HAVE A GOOD SIDE. . KIND OF

.....

WHAT'S WRONG, SEKIKAWA-KUN?

SEKIKAWA-KUN?

FWEET!

HE MIGHT HIT 10 SECONDS AGAIN!

WHOA, LOOK AT FUJI-KAWA GO!

adidas

HEH HEH. .

GRR!

HUH?

!

WHO'S THAT?!

WHOA, WHAT THE-?!

SEKI-
KAWA!

URGH...

HEY, SEKI-KAWA! WHERE YA GOIN' ?!

SEKI-KAWA-AAAA!

CLICK

WHA-AA-AA-AAT ?!

WHA... 10.88!

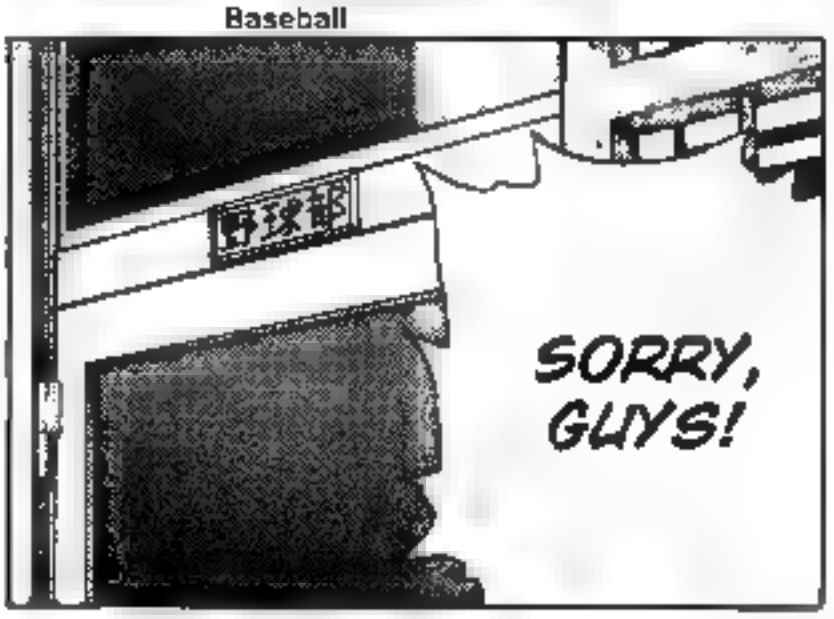
I SWEAR, I'M SORRY!

'BOUT WHAT?

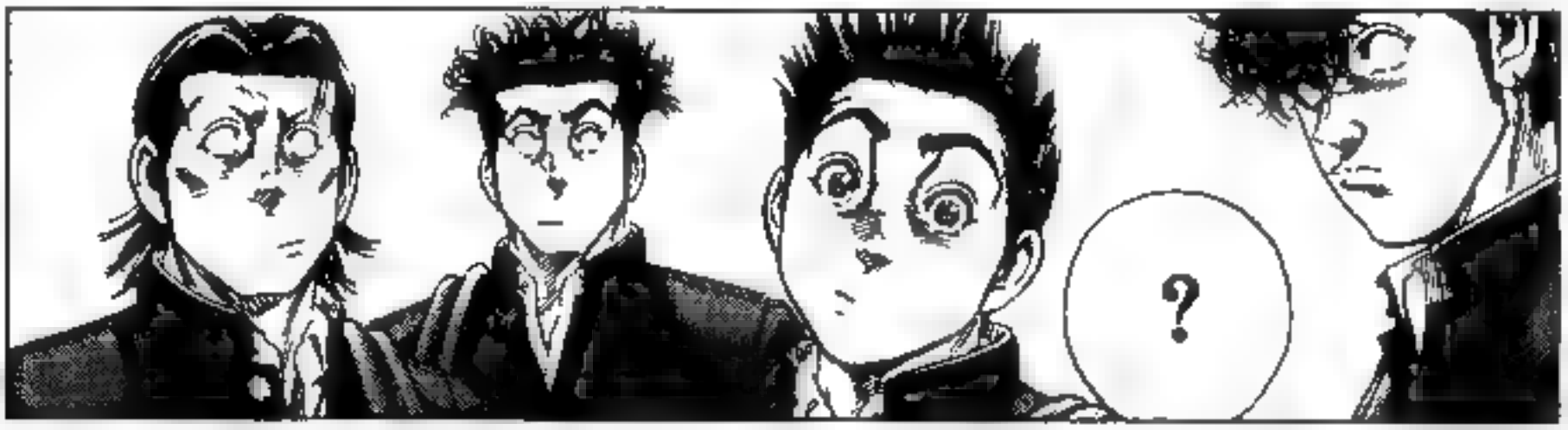
SEE HOW SORRY I AM?

WHAT ABOUT?

Baseball



SORRY, GUYS!



?

HEYA!

HEY, KEIKO-CHAN!

WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?

GO, NIKO-GAKU, GO!

WE'RE ALL IN IT FOR LOVE OF THE GAME! WE'RE GOIN' KOSHIEN ALL THE WAY!

Rant

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Vol.131 Kawato's Secret Locker

FIGHTING ?

WEREN'T WE FIGHTING?

I THINK WHATEVER IT WAS, IT WAS DEFINITELY *YOUR* FAULT..

HMMM? NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT.

I FEEL LIKE I *DID* REALLY HATE YOU OVER SOMETHING..

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE.

WAIT, NO, IT'S NOT.

IT'S THAT COLD-BLOODED MAYUGE CHICK.

OH, HERE SHE COMES!

FUJITA-SENSEI!

AAAH ?!

WHAT ?!

HUH?

Note: Remember, her name is Mayumi. Mayuge means "eyebrows."

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FOR?!

NOW I REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS, YOU ASSHOLE!

YEOW!

I'LL ADMIT IT, MAYUMI-SENSEI MIGHT HAVE THICK EYE-BROWS!

HUH?

AHEM.

MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE THE TIME TO SAY HELLO, ONCE IN A WHILE...

OH NO! THE BASE-BALL TEAM...

WHY NOT? SHE IS!

DON'T CALL HER COLD-BLOOD-ED!

THEY'RE ALL GOOD BOYS, DOWN IN THEIR HEARTS...

SHOOT... I SHOULDN'T BE PREJU-DICED AGAINST THEM...

.....

BUT WHO CARES? YOU HAVE NO IDEA JUST HOW NICE SHE IS..

!

W-WHAT?!

AAAAAGH! HELP MEEEE...

HONE-STLY!

ドキドキ!

IT'S COMING FROM THE CHANGING ROOM...

I'M DYING! I'M BEING MURDERED!

I'M BEING... ABDUCTED!

!

THE UFOS... THE UFOS ARE COMING!

AAH! HERE COMES THE BEAM...

K- KAWATO- SENSEI .

BAH!

SHUT UP!

AAAAAH! MAYUMI- SENSEI!

UHHH, WHAT CAN I SAY?

HA HA...

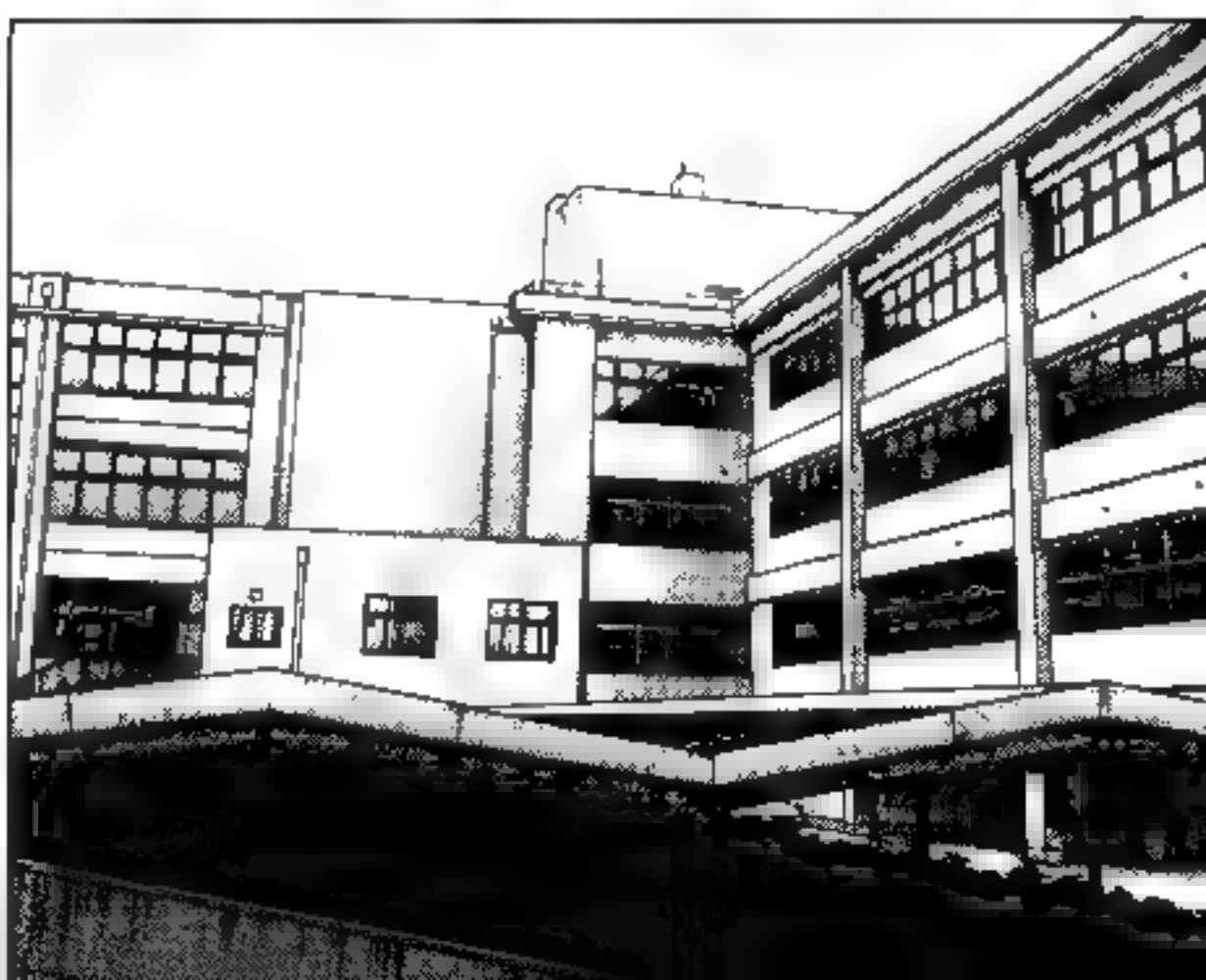
YOU FELL ASLEEP GRADING PAPERS WERE OVER- NIGHT?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

WHOA!
?
Kawato
川
!
W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? THEY'RE MY FAVORITE! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
CUP NOOD
AND LOOK AT WHAT YOU'RE EATING!
OF COURSE I AM! DON'T BE RUDE! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I. .
YOU AREN'T GETTING THREE GOOD MEALS A DAY, ARE YOU?

.....?
UH, N-N-N-NO! NO! WHY WOULD IT BE?
WA HA HA HA!
IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?

Principal
校長室
URRRGH! MY STOMACH!



WHA..

I HAVE LOTS OF WORK TO DO, AND IT KEEPS ME FROM BEING LATE, SO, Y'KNOW...

HRRRM!

GLUG GLUG

I, UH..

KAWATO-KUN, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE SPENDING JUST ABOUT EVERY NIGHT SLEEPING IN THERE!

WHAT AN ABSOLUTE SLOB OF A MAN!

WHEW-WWW.

.....

IT'S PATHETIC! JUST DISGRACEFUL.

HOW IS A MAN WHO CANNOT KEEP HIS WORK AND HIS PRIVATE LIFE SEPARATE GOING TO BE A MODEL TO HIS STUDENTS?!

HE SURE CHEWED YOU OUT, HUH?

AND I FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT IT

Faculty Room

I REGRET MY ACTIONS, SIR.

IF YOU'VE GOT ANY PROBLEMS, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO TELL ME!

FUJITA-SENSEI, YOU MUSN'T! DON'T GIVE THIS JERK ANY MORE ATTENTION THAN HE ALREADY GETS!

OH DEAR! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? ARE YOU HURT?

OH, NO, NO, IT'S NOT THAT. .

.....

RRGH .

!

WELL, IT HAD A PLUM TREE PRINT ON IT...

WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

OH! WHERE'S MY TEACUP?

I THOUGHT IT WAS RIGHT HERE. .

I PICKED UP THE WRONG CUP...

OHHHH... MYYYY... GODDDDD...!

IF YOU DON'T MIND USING A PAPER CUP, WE'VE GOT PLENTY.

OH, HOW KIND OF YOU!

.....!

IF THIS GETS OUT, I AM TOTALLY SCREWED...

RR-RGH...

.....

I SEEM TO HAVE MADE TOO MUCH FOOD, ONCE AGAIN...

BY THE WAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR LUNCH, TODAY?

OH, YOU! IF YOU'D SAID THE WORD, I'D MAKE *ANYTHING* FOR YOU!

UHHH, GOSH... I-I PREPARED MY OWN LUNCH, TODAY...

IT'S SO THAT YOU CAN FONDLE AND PORE OVER ALL OF FUJITA-SENSEI'S THINGS! YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT RED-HANDED, YOU PERVERT!

T-THAT'S IT! I KNOW WHY YOU'RE STAYING OVERNIGHT AT THE SCHOOL!

W-WHAAAAT?!

HUH?

I-IT WAS YOU! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DID IT!

YOU MUST HAVE STOLEN FUJITA-SENSEI'S TEACUP! NOBODY ELSE WOULD!

D-DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME!

NO, I HAVEN'T DONE ANY SUCH THING!

N-NO...

NO... YOU'RE A CRIMINAL!

YOU GOT SO TIRED OF TRYING TO APPEAL TO FUJITA-SENSE! BY ACTING COOL, YOU'VE WORKED YOUR WAY UP TO THIS! FIEND...!

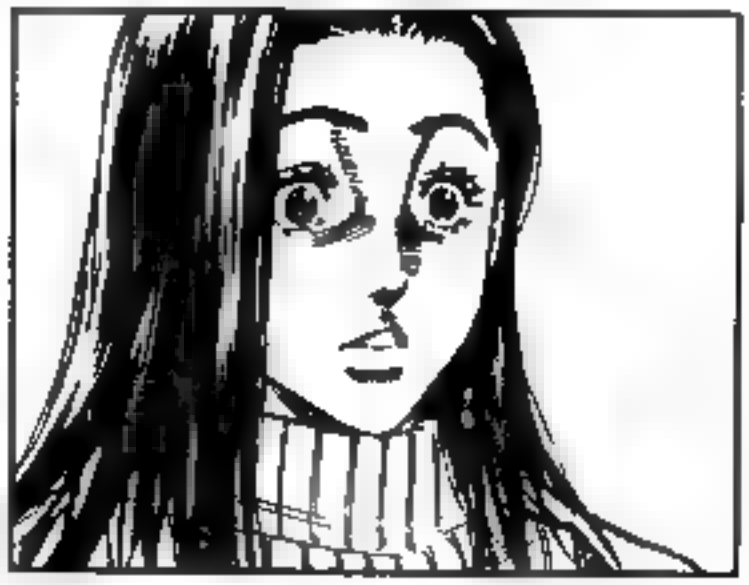
SHUT UP! I BET YOU'VE GOT IT HIDDEN IN YOUR LOCKER!

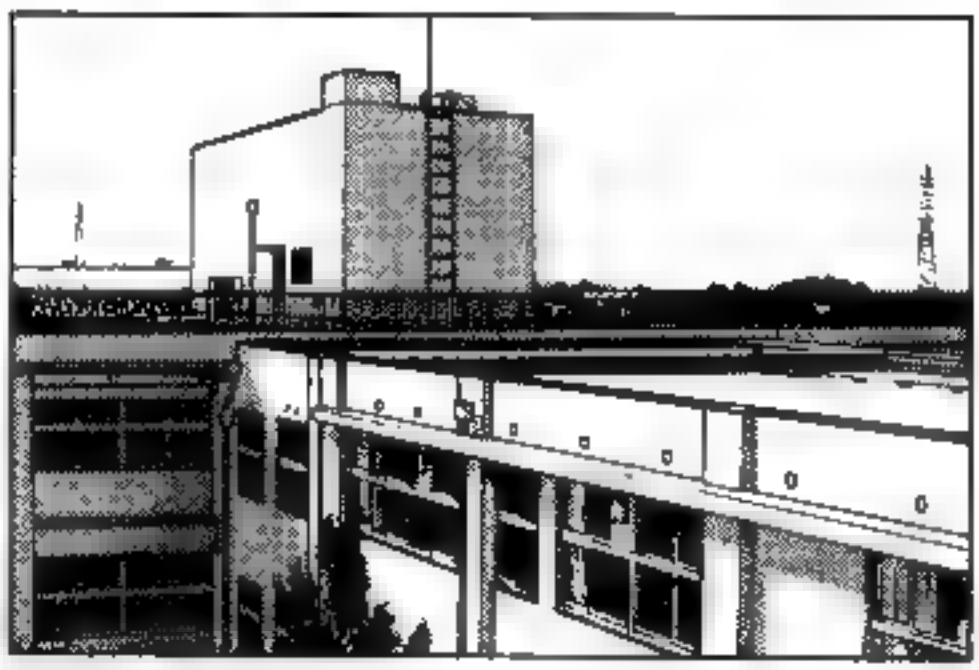
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THESE THINGS, SENPAI!

I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SAYING...

.....

I HAVEN'T! THIS IS A LIE!





Men's Changing Room

THIS IS ALL TO CEMENT THE LOVE THAT EXISTS BETWEEN FUJITA-SENSEI AND ME...

I'M AFRAID ALL IMPEDIMENTS MUST BE CLEARED AWAY.

AND NOW, THE PROOF OF THE CRIME...

FORGIVE ME!

Kawato

川藤

MAYUMI-SENSEI! COME BACK!

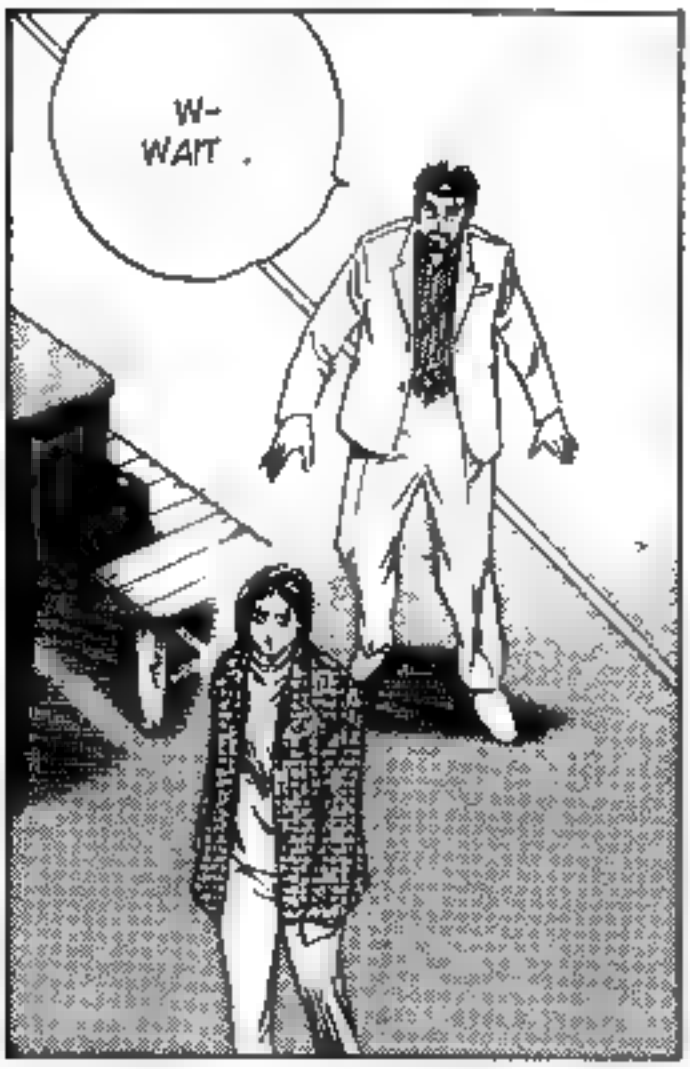
.....

IT'S NOT TRUE!

I'M TELLING YOU, THERE'S BEEN SOME MISTAKE!

HUH .?
I KNOW THAT.

I WOULD *NEVER* DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!


W- WAIT .

ACK.

DO YOU *WANT* HER TO DESPISE YOU?
SO WHY DON'T YOU EXPLAIN THAT TO *HER*, RATHER THAN ME?

AAAAH! THAT WAS A LIE, I DIDN'T MEAN IT!
I'M JUST KIDDING!

ONCE SHE GETS THE WRONG IDEA, SHE *NEVER* FIXES HER ATTITUDE, I SWEAR...
ARRRRGH. WELL, THIS SUCKS...

HAT'S RIGHT, A MAN INVOLVED WITH SPORTS OUGHT TO BE CONCERNED WITH GETTING A BALANCED NUTRITION. . HEH HEH!

HUH...? OH, WELL, UHHH...

WELL, I *DID* LEARN ONE THING.

LET'S SEE, RED SALMON, I THINK? HA HA..

WHAT'S YOUR MAIN DISH, TODAY?

.....

THAT YOU APPARENTLY COOK YOUR OWN LUNCH?

.....

DESPITE THE FACT THAT YOU SPENT THE NIGHT HERE AT SCHOOL?

YOU REALLY SHOULD ACCEPT THE FAVOR FUJITA-SENSEI'S DOING YOU.

BUT I GUESS YOU DON'T WANT TO PUT HER THROUGH ANY TROUBLE. HOW NICE OF YOU!

NO! I'M NOT!

YOU'RE ACTUALLY EATING INSTANT RAMEN EVERYDAY.

!

W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? AND WHY IS THE TOPIC TURNING TO...

I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU DID HAVE HER TEACUP HIDDEN AWAY IN YOUR LOCKER.

NO...

HUH ?!

WAIT A MINUTE. WEREN'T YOU TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING IN YOUR LOCKER FROM ME, THIS MORNING?

.....

HUH ?!

Kawato

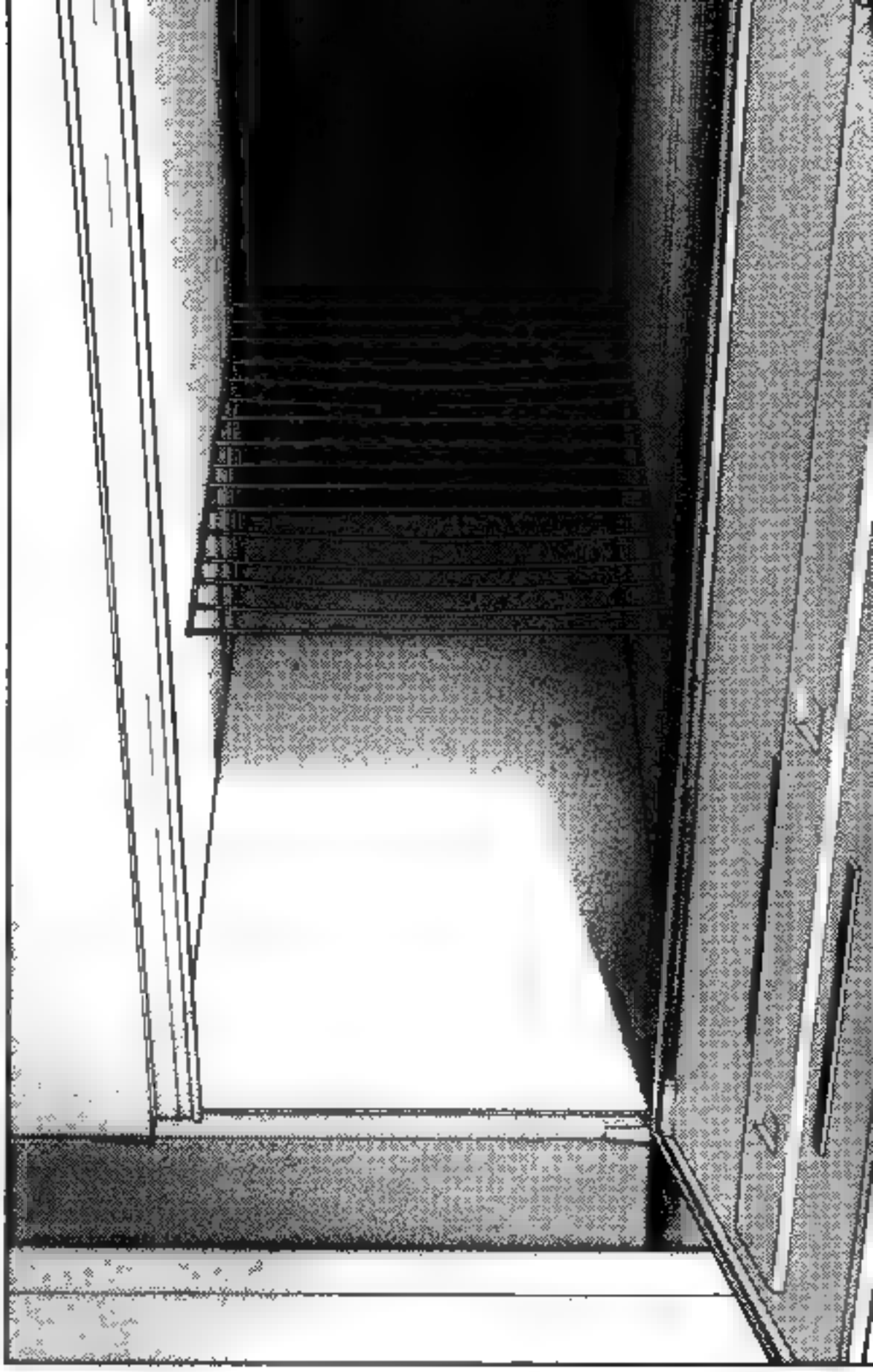
川藤

キィィ...

G-GO RIGHT AHEAD OPEN IT UP. .

.....

!
S-SEE? NOTHING. NOW LET'S JUST CLOSE THIS, AND..



ERR, UHH, WHAT CAN I SAY...?
EMER-GENCY RATIONS? UHHH.
.....

CUP NOODLE
.....

HEE HEE HEE.

PFFF

UGH, GREAT. THIS IS MORTIFYING.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IS WHAT I EAT FOR LUNCH...

SNIFF, SNIFF.

IT'LL BE A PAIN, BUT I CAN'T OVERLOOK THIS.

WELL, ALL RIGHT, THEN. I'LL START MAKING YOU LUNCH.

WHAT A TERRIBLE DIET

I FIGURED THIS WOULD BE THE CASE

WHAT CAN I SAY..

AAAAHH! I JUST COULDN'T DO IT!

HUH ..?

I NEARLY TURNED MYSELF INTO THE LOWEST COWARD WHO EVER WALKED THE EARTH!

I AM NOT CAPABLE OF SUCH DESPICABLE CRUELTY!

ゴ…

SO STUPID, STUPID, STU-PID!

I AM SUCH A TERRIBLE MAN! SO HIDEOUS!

ゴ…ゴ…

?

I'M SORRY, KAWATO-KUN, I'M SORRY!

WHAT'S THIS TEACUP DOING HERE..?

OH GOD, IT'S MINE!

OF COURSE! I LEFT IT RIGHT HERE

HUH?

WHY, I'D *GIVE* KAWATO-SENSEI MY TEACUP, IF IT MADE HIM HAPPY!

REALLY! HE'S THAT OBSESSED WITH ME, IS HE..?

HEE HEE.

AND I PUT MY MOUTH ON IT, WITHOUT REALIZING THAT .

SO, THIS IS WHAT FUJITA-SENSEI SIPS HER TEA OUT OF, EVERY DAY..

WHICH MAKES IT AN INDIRECT K-K-K-K-

HMMM. WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS, THEN...?

GUESS I COULD PUT IT BACK BEFORE ANYONE NOTICES...

MMM?

KYAA AAA! ♡

HAS ANYONE SEEN MY TEACUP?

THE PLUM TREE ONE

Rant

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Vol.132 King of the Pussies

.....

HERE WE GO.

READY, SET...

WAIT..

THIS IS WHERE YOU WANT IT?

WHOA!

COME ON, MAN!

NOT AGAIN!

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!

IT GOES POP, AND IT'S ALL OVER.

IT'S JUST A PIERCER, MAN.

HOW MANY MINUTES DOES IT TAKE YOU TO MAN UP FOR A STUPID LITTLE EAR PIERCING?!

I-I JUST NEED A BIT MORE TIME TO COLLECT MY THOUGHTS...

I DID MINE WITH A TOOTH-PICK.
IT BARELY DOES!
PATHETIC.
KNOW HOW I DID THIS? THUMBTACK!

WHAT IF IT BLEEDS!
I-I KNOW THAT, BUT IT'S A FREAKIN' HOLE! OPENING A HOLE IN YOUR BODY!

JUST MAKE IT QUICK.
SHIT, GIVE IT TO ME, THEN! I'LL DO IT MYSELF!

I DON'T WANT NO PIERCINGS.
OKAY, YOU TRY IT, THEN!
BESIDES, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU WANTED TO DO IT

.....

NOBODY CARES!
SAY, HAVE YOU GUYS NOTICED THE BAGS UNDER TOMOMI KAHARA'S EYES HAVE GOTTEN REALLY BAD, LATELY?
YOU'VE NEVER EVEN SAID A WORD ABOUT TOMOMI KAHARA BEFORE IN YOUR LIFE!
I HAVE! NOW DO IT!

RR-GH...
.....

.....

KING OF THE PUSSIES.

YOU'RE SUCH A PUSSY.

KING OF THE WHATS, NOW? FUCK YOU.

YOU'RE PRETTY PATHETIC, MAN.

MWO-OOOO!

AAA-AHH-HH!!

WATCH, YOU GUYS ARE TOTALLY GONNA FALL BACKWARDS OFF THAT SHIT.

HUH?

GYA HA HA HA!

IF YOU LAND BADLY, YOU COULD

BESIDES, YOU WON'T *DIE* FROM FALLING OFF THE SECOND FLOOR.

HUH?

YOU WANNA PROVE THAT TO US?

WHAT A DORK!

HE HAS HIS FEET STUCK SO HE WON'T FA...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING ?!

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

I-I CAN'T DO IT... SWEAR TO GOD, I'M TERRIFIED OF HEIGHTS...

HA HA HA! YOU'RE PATHETIC.

I'M GONNA KILL YOU GUYS ONE OF THESE DAYS.

YOU'RE GONNA KILL MEE-EEE!

AAAA-AAHH! NO, STOP!

GYAHAHAHA! C'MON, YOU GOTTA FACE YOUR FEARS! YOU WON'T FALL, MAN!

IS THAT KAWATO?

YOU'RE JUST THE KIND OF GUY THAT MAYUMI-SENSEI HATES.

WHOA.

WHAT?!

HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT. HE'S INDECISIVE, A PUSSY, AN IDIOT, AND HE HAS SHITTY HAIR.

GYAHAHAHA! LOOK AT HIM TEACHING THE CLASS ALL SERIOUSLY

RUMOR HAS IT THAT KAWATO'S BEEN GETTING HANDMADE LUNCHES FROM MAYUMI-SENSEI EVERY DAY.

WHAT LUNCHES?

WHAT, YOU DIDN'T KNOW?

YOU THINK THE STORY'S TRUE?

ABOUT THE LUNCHES?

TOO LATE.

OH, WAIT. MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T TELL HIM.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

WHA..

NAH, I DOUBT THAT

SOME PEOPLE SAY THEY'RE AN ITEM.

ARE YOU SURE? ONE THEORY POSITS THAT MAYUMI-SENSEI CAME HERE FROM THEIR OLD SCHOOL TO CHASE AFTER KAWATO.

KING OF THE PUSSIES DON'T TELL *NO ONE* HIS FEELINGS.

ME, I'D JUST TELL HER.

RRGH.

GYA HA HA HA!

BESIDES, HE'S NEVER EVEN ASKED OUT A GIRL OUR AGE.

THAT'S OUR KING!

.....

TETSURO YUFUNE IS IN THE PINCH OF HIS LIFE!

IT'S NOT A "PINCH" IF HE HAS NO CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING IN THE FIRST PLACE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?! IT'S CLASS-TIME!

AND DON'T SIT ON THE LEDGE!

HE'S SAYIN' SOME-THING TO US.

ガラ

OH SHIT, HE SAW US!

THAT'S NOT WHAT HE'S SAYING.

THAT ASS-HOLE!

HE'S ALL, "MAYUMI-SENSE! BELONGS TO MEEEEEE!"

DON'T SIT THERE! IT'S DANGEROUS!

WHOA-AAAA!

WHOA, WHAT THE-?!

NO! STO-OOP!

SHOW HIM UP, YUFUNE!

EEEK, I'M GONNA DIE!

YOU CAN DO IT!

C'MON, DON'T DO THIS TO ME!

I CAN'T TELL IF HE'S AWESOME OR JUST STUPID.

WOW, LOOK AT KAWATO GO.

URGH...

W-WHAT'S GOING ON?!

YOU FRIG-GIN' JACK-ASS!

W-WHAA-AAAT?!

ARE YOU, YOU KNOW, IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH MAYUMI-SENSEI?!

IS IT TRUE, KAWATO?!

.....

WHY DID YOU JUST PAUSE, THEN?!

N-NOW THAT'S JUST HOGWASH!

D-DON'T SPEAK NON-SENSE, SON!

IS IT TRUE? I HEAR SHE MAKES LUNCH FOR YOU AND DOES ALL KINDS OF OTHER STUFF!

UH, NO.. YOU DON'T QUITE UNDER-STAND...

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE GRAPPLING WITH A STUDENT!

HOW SHOULD I EXPLAIN..?

.....

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?

MMMMM-MAYUMI-SENSEI!

GEE. .

I, HHH-HH. .

HHHM-MM. .

WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?

HE'S TOTALLY PUSSIN' OUT...

WHOA...

.....

O-OKAY, THEN...

.....

THESE TWO WOULD NEVER DATE.

THEY AREN'T EVEN FRIENDLY!

AAAAH!

WHOA, LOOK.

HUH?

WHAT?

WHAT? WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING?

IF YOU NEED SOMETHING, SAY IT NOW.

.....

IT'S YUFUNE AND MAYUMI-SENSE!

HE ISN'T GONNA ASK HER OUT, IS HE?

WHAT THE HELL'S HE DOING?

OUT WITH IT.

WELL?

I, UMM..

UGH...

WELLL.

I CAN'T TELL HER THIS...

AWW, CRAP...

YUFUNE-KUN!

Y-YES?!

I AM THE KING OF THE PUSSIES...

I GUESS THEY'RE RIGHT...

I GUESS!..

.....

HE'S FREAKIN' OUT, GETTIN' SCARED.

WHAT'S HE DOING?

.....!

.....

...GUH...

STOP FIDGETING!

YOU'RE A MAN, AREN'T YOU?

I AIN'T. .

.....

WHAT? PUSSIES .?

I AIN'T NO KING OF THE PUSSIES.

.....

SENSEI, WOULD YOU...

.....

I AIN'T PUSSIN' OUT!

I AIN'T SCARED OF NOTHIN'!

GO...

OOPS, HE RAN.

...AAAH, I CAN'T SAY IT!

MEOWW-WWWW!

WHA-

!?

AAA AAA AHH H!

YUFUNE-
KUN!

WHAT
THE...

WHOAA-AAAAA! HOLY SHIT!

I'M FUCKIN' AWE-SOME!

OH...

.....

OH...

OHHH..

HE CHOSE TO JUMP, RATHER THAN TELL HER.

WHAT IN THE GODDAMN HELL..

.....

YEAA-AAH!

RAAA-AAH!

DID YOU SEE THAT SHIT?!

HELL YEAH! HELL YEAH, ME!

……

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

110

HOW COULD YOU BE SO STUPID?!

WHAT IF YOU'D GOTTEN HURT?!

HEH HEH HEH. .

HEH HEH. .

SHUT UP, KING OF THE PUSSIES!

GET BACK HERE!

TOMORROW! I'LL PIERCE IT TOMORROW!

Baseball Club

野球部

NOOOO! NO, HANG ON!

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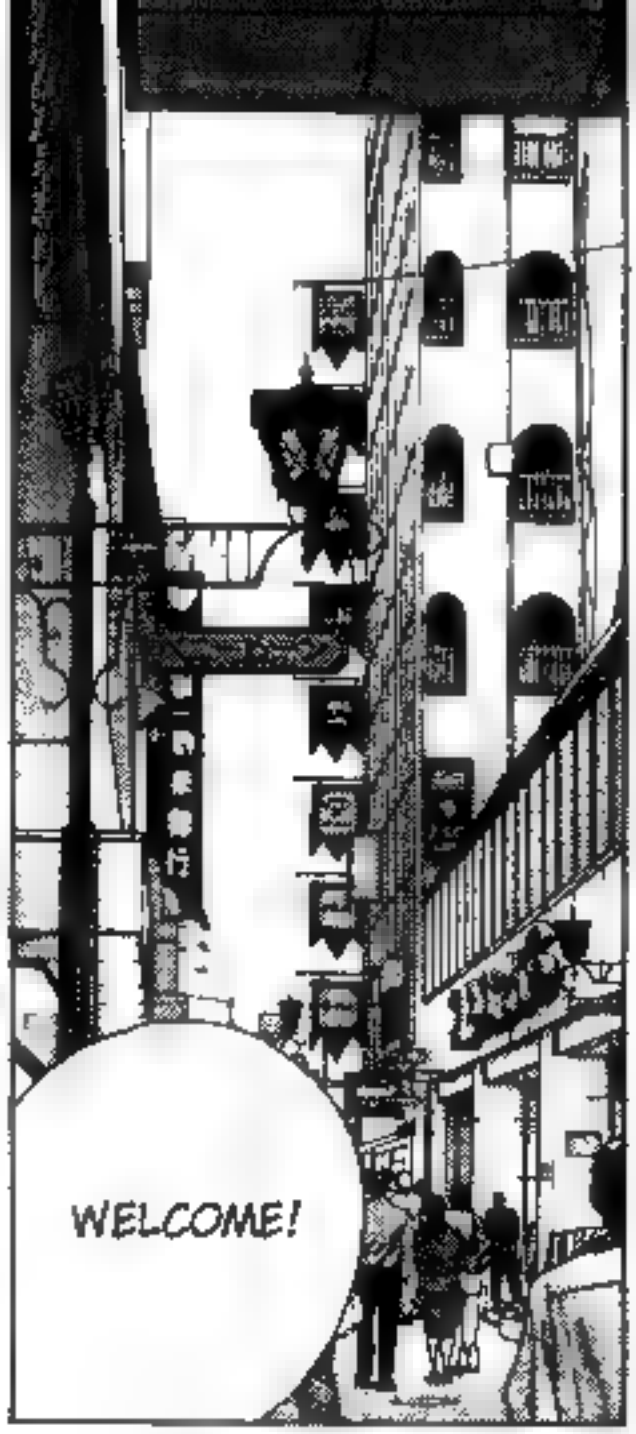
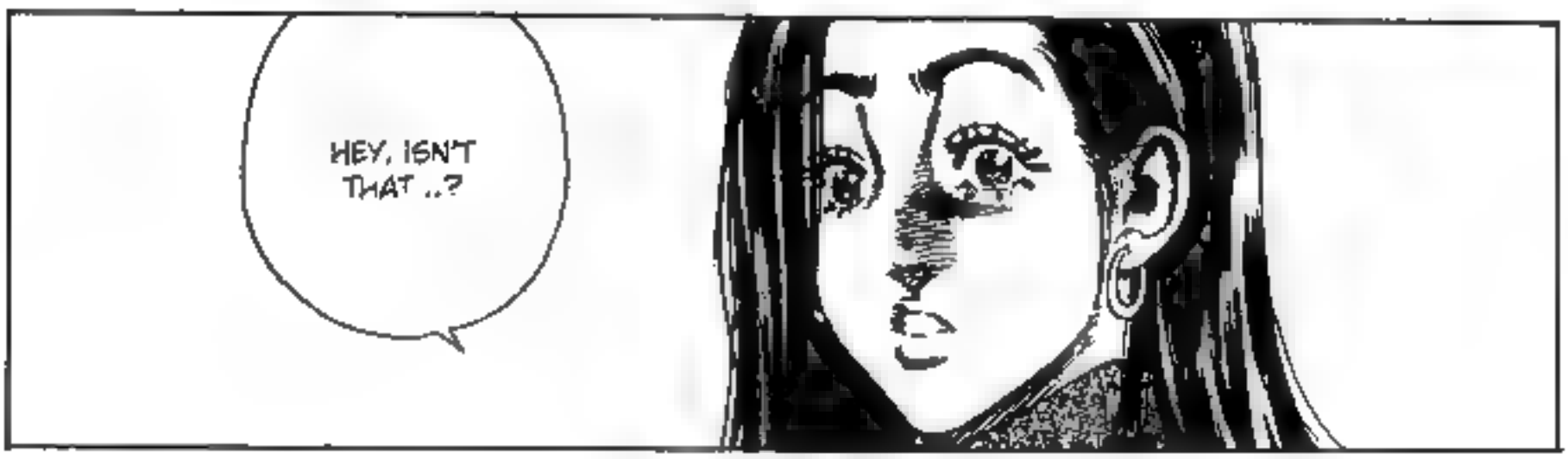
Vol.133 Old Friends and a Woman's Heart

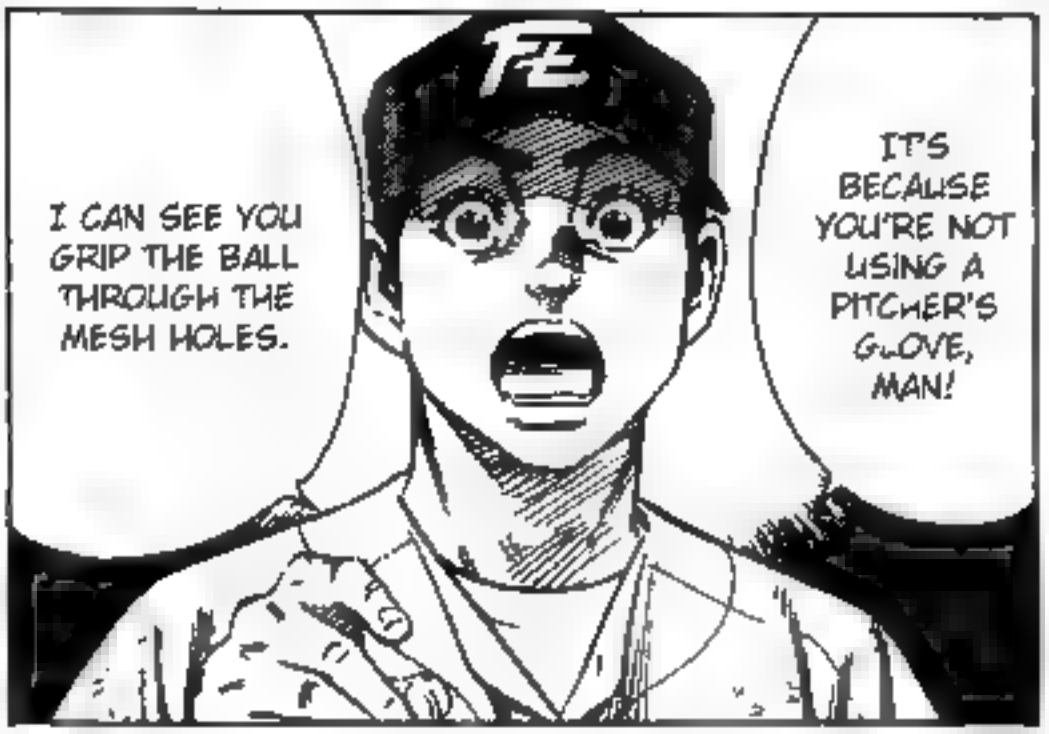




Vol.133 Old Friends and a Woman's Heart

I'M NOT EVEN HOLDING THE BALL NEAR THE HOLES.
WHO SEES THAT WELL?!
I CAN TELL, I'M SERIOUS.
BUT YOU BEND YOUR THUMB A BIT WHEN YOU'RE GRIPPING THE CURVE.

YOU'RE LYING!
YEP, YOU CAN TELL IT'S THE CURVE.


I CAN SEE YOU GRIP THE BALL THROUGH THE MESH HOLES.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT USING A PITCHER'S GLOVE, MAN!

WELL, IF YOU'D JUST CHANGE YOUR STYLE A BIT SO THEY CAN'T SEE. .

YEY!

YEY!

JUST WORK ON YOUR OWN EXERCISES!

GRRR. ..

AND EVEN IF THEY *CAN* TELL, THEY STILL CAN'T HIT IT

WHO CARES? I'M USED TO THE OUTFIELDER'S GLOVE!

RAAHHH!

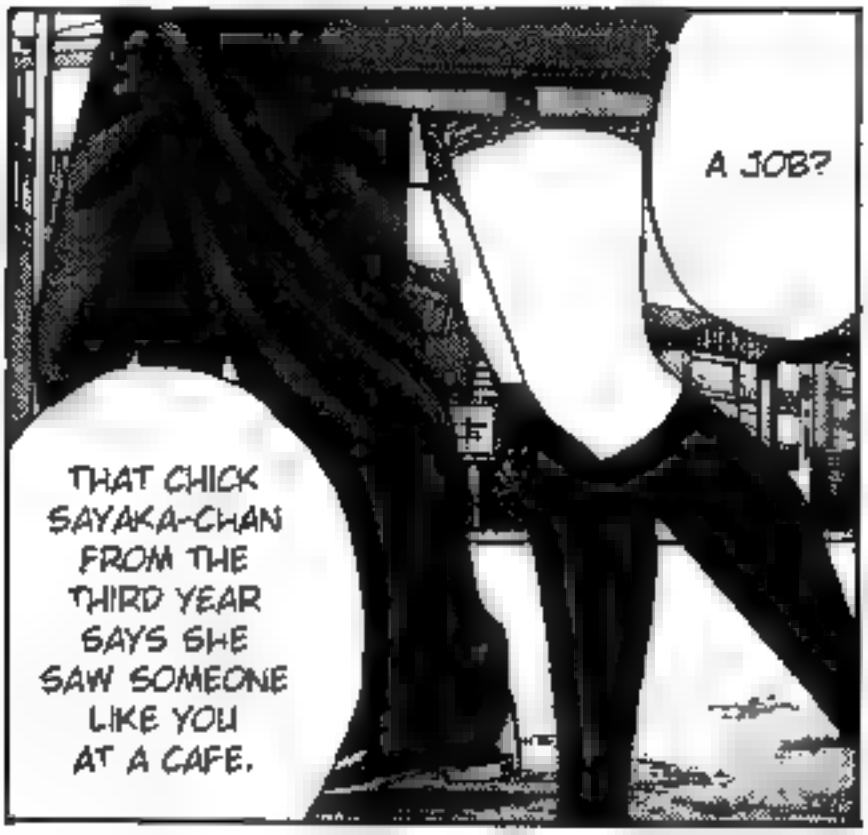
YOU KNOW, I THINK ANIYA-KUN'S EVEN HOTTER THAN BEFORE.

YEAH. I LIKE HIM SO MUCH BETTER WHEN HE'S PLAYING BASEBALL.

YEY!

YEY!

WHEW.


A JOB?
THAT CHICK SAYAKA-CHAN FROM THE THIRD YEAR SAYS SHE SAW SOMEONE LIKE YOU AT A CAFE.

HAVE YOU BEEN DOING A PART-TIME JOB, LATELY?

IF A TEACHER SEES YOU WORKING, YOU'LL BE SUSPENDED.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

NO, I HAVEN'T.

HUH?

YOU TALK WITH THE THIRD-YEAR GIRLS A LOT.

WHAT, IS THAT BAD?

AND YOU'RE TOO CLUMSY TO BE A WAITRESS, ANYWAY

I TOLD YOU, I DON'T DO THAT

OH, YEAH?

MAN, YOU'RE WEIRD.

I DIDN'T SAY IT WAS GOOD OR BAD.

STRAIGHT WHITE!

I'M READY TO LIVE ANOTHER DAY!

HELL YEAH! YOU SEE THAT?!

OH.

THEY AIN'T DOIN' IT, ARE THEY?

FUCK BUDDIES WITH A OLD FRIEND? NAW.

NAW, THEY JUST LIVE NEAR EACH OTHER.

MAN, THOSE TWO ARE ALL OVER EACH OTHER.

WHAT?!

NO WAY! THEY EXCHANGED MUFFLERS!

HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS GUCCI MUFFLER?

LUCKY BASTARD..

UGH..

HUH? WHERE'D THE GUCCI GO?

GOOD MORNING, ANIYA-KUN!

YO.

HUH?

HERE HE COMES!

EEEK!

OH, HI, TOKO.

HI, IZUMI

HEY, IT'S ANIYA-KUN!

EEEEK!

DAMN, I'M COVERED IN LADIES THIS MORNING!

ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE'S THE CATCH OF THE SCHOOL AGAIN.

ISN'T HE?

YOU THINK SO?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

EEEK!

OH, IT'S JUST ANIYA-KUN.

TOKO? HEY!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WHAT?! NO, WHY?

DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT GOING OUT WITH ANIYA-KUN?

YOU'RE SO CLOSE TO HIM.

Girls' Bathroom

女子便所

YOU KNOW, TOKO. .

WHAT'S UP?

OH, THAT'S GOOD!

!

BUT THAT'S IT.

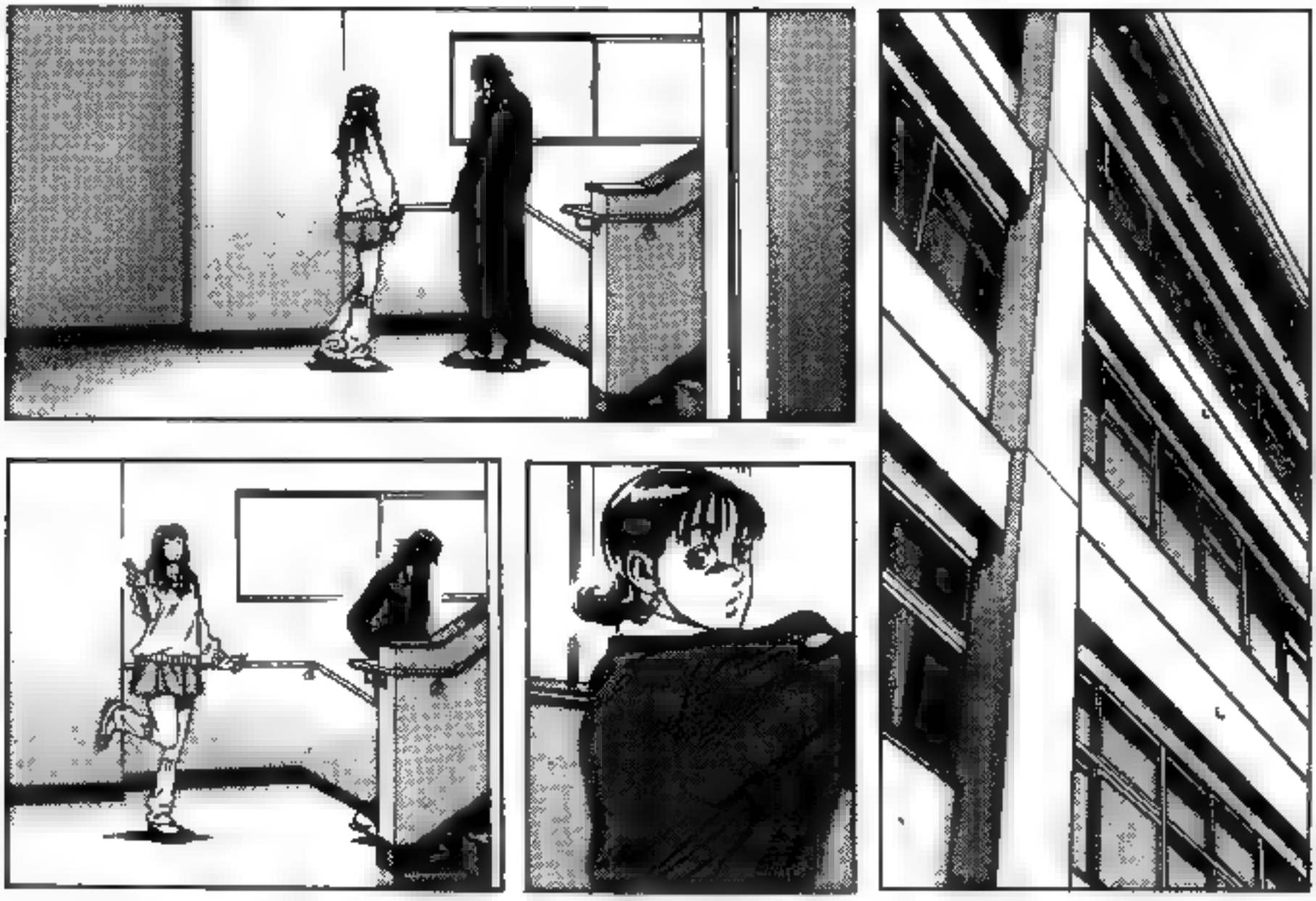
WELL, I KNOW WE LIVE NEARBY.

I'M SURE HE'LL BE EXCITED.

YEAH, I DON'T SEE WHY NOT!

CAN I ASK ANIYA-KUN OUT, TONIGHT?!

WELL, THE TEAM DOESN'T HAVE PRACTICE TODAY, RIGHT?



FUJITA-SENSEI WAS TELLING ME ABOUT IT.
YOU AREN'T WORKING A JOB, ARE YOU?

HEY, YAGI!

YOU'RE LUCKY IT WAS FUJITA-SENSEI. IF ANY OTHER TEACHER HAD SEEN YOU, YOU'D BE SUSPENDED BY NOW.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE WORKING.

. . .WHY ARE YOU MAD?

WH. .

I'M QUITTING IT! I DON'T NEED IT!

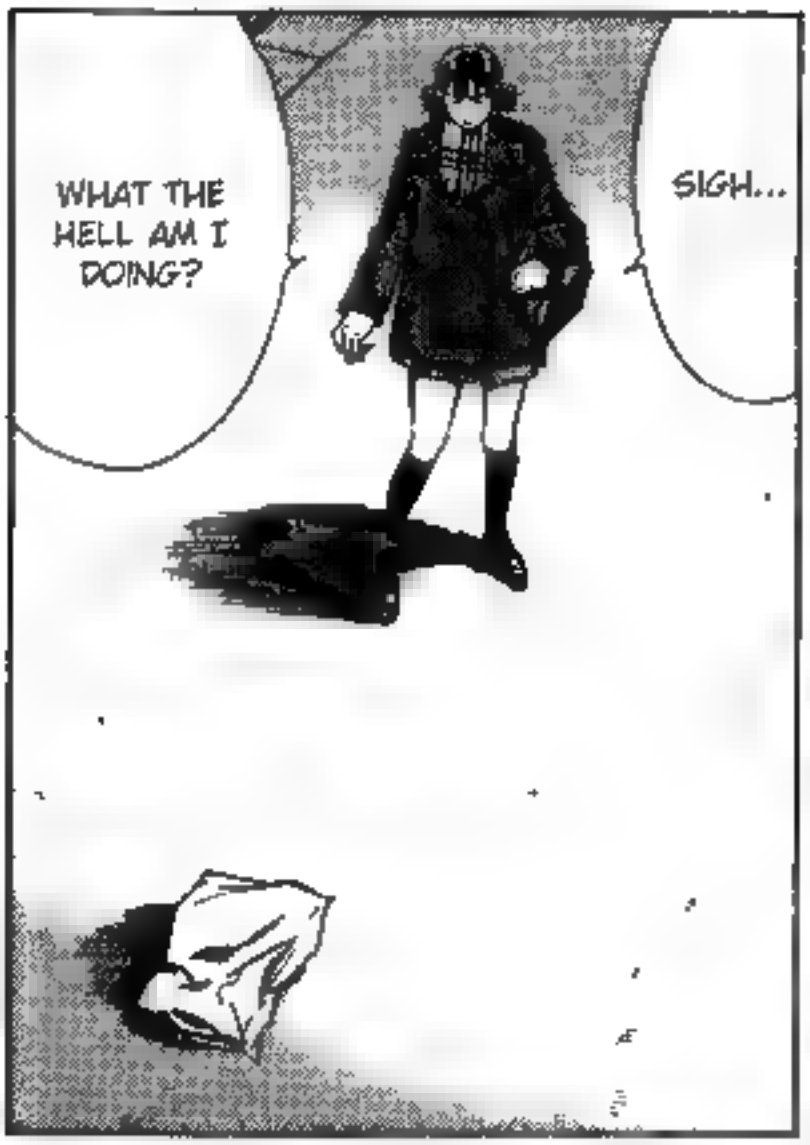
OH, BE QUIET!

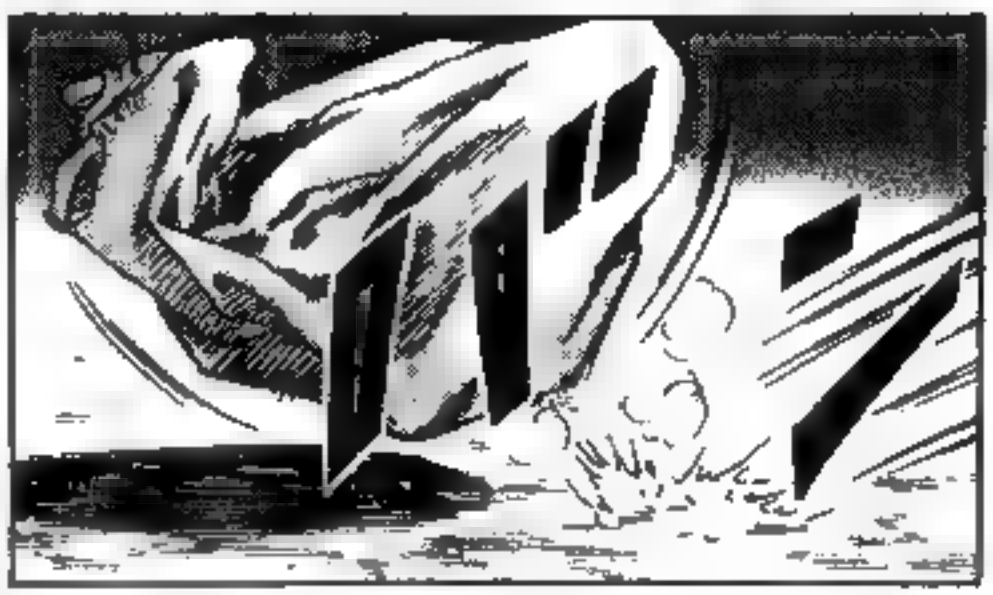
SHEESH!

AND THEN I WENT UP GOING TO WORK, ANYWAY.

HMPH.

AND THEN I EVEN BOUGHT *THIS* STUPID THING.
THERE GOES ALL MY PAYCHECK!


WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?
SIGH...



HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF.

!

DON'T MAKE A SOUND.

OH, COME ON! YOU DIDN'T SCREAM?

K. . KEI-CHAN. .

YOU'RE NO FUN.

I GUESS YOU *WERE* WORKING, HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN YOUR UNIFORM AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

!

GOTCHA, SUCKER.

I'M GETTING SOME EXERCISE!

WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE?

WE DIDN'T HAVE REGULAR PRACTICE, TODAY.

W-WELL, WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE, THEN?

HUH?

AND DRESSED LIKE THAT!

. BUT, IZUMI.

E-EXERCISE .?

I. . I THOUGHT YOU PROMISED TO MEET WITH HER TONIGHT.

.....

IZUMI? WHO?

WHAT ABOUT IZUMI?!

SHIT, YOU MEAN SHE WAS ***SERIOUS*** ?!

HUH... OH, *THAT*?

.....

I GUESS IT'S THE FATE OF A GOOD-LOOKIN' DUDE.

THIS CRAP'S HAPPENING TO ME A LOT, THESE DAYS.

I USUALLY JUST KINDA SHRUG 'EM OFF

!

Victory Stage

!

ARE YOU THROWING THIS AWAY?

WHAT IS IT?

AND THAT WAS WHY YOU WERE WORKING .?

. WAS THIS... SUPPOSED TO BE... FOR ME?

WHOA, IT'S A GLOVE.

A PITCHER'S GLOVE!

YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND A WOMAN'S HEART!

...OF COURSE NOT

HUH? NO? YOU DON'T MEAN.. *IMAOKA?*

APOLOGIZE TO IZUMI.

WHA-?

I DON'T HAVE *TIME* TO UNDERSTAND THAT CRAP, WITH BASEBALL AND ALL.

O-OF COURSE I DON'T!

WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE AWARE OF THAT!

.....

!

YEOW!

YOU JUST FELT ME UP! I OUGHT TO SLAP YOU!

YOU *DID* SLAP ME.

HEY..

CAN I COME OVER TO YOUR PLACE?

BUT I'M DONE WITH MY BASEBALL EXERCISE FOR TODAY.

.....

The Legendary Fifth Rookies Group's version of Morita Masanori's Rookies can always be found at:

http://LegendaryFifthRookiesGroup.blogspot.com/

THAT'S IT!

DON'T PULL YOUR HEAD! BEND YOUR KNEES GENTLY!

Vol.134

Making Contact at the Riverside

YES!

WAIT, NO! YOU'RE PULLING THE BAT OVER!

MAKE THE BAT HIT THE BALL SQUARE-ON!

TI...

COME ON! THIS IS NO WAY TO PLAY PEPPER!

ONCE YOU CAN DO IT, SEND THE BALL BACK TO ME ON A BOUNCE.

WHY AM I SO TIRED, ANYWAY?

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, DUDE.

WANNA HIT UP THE ARCADE?

I MEAN, SHIT

OF COURSE I HAVE! I *GOTTA* HIT BETTER THAN HIRATSUKA.

YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER AT MAKING CONTACT, THOUGH.

I DON'T HAVE MONEY.

FEBRUARY. ALMOST THERE.

HOW LONG UNTIL WE CAN USE THE FIELD ON WEDNESDAYS AGAIN, ANYWAY?

SHIT, IF ONLY THERE'S SOME MONEY ON THE GROUND MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!

PSHH. I WAS ALL UP ABOUT TO SHOW YOU MY CRAZY NEW PITCH

OKAY, WANNA PLAY BASEBALL, THEN?

ARE YOU NUTS? IT'S FREEZING OUTSIDE.

W- WHAT ?!

GET HIT BY THE BALL!

C'MON, DO IT!

MAN, WHAT SHITTY BATTING.

HEY, IT'S COMIN' THIS WAY.

NWAH!

GET OUTTA THE WAY!

HEY, LOOK OUT!

SORRY, YOU ALL RIGHT?!

SHIT, THAT'S A HARDBALL!

NICE ONE.

OWW..

YEOW!

AAA AAH!

SHOULDA LET IT HIT *HIM*, INSTEAD.

MAN, THAT DUDE IS SUCH A SCAM ARTIST.

WHA?

HEY, WHAT THE FUCK! ARE YOU TRYIN' TO KILL US?

I SAID I WAS SORRY.

MEDICAL BILLS, MAN!

YOU THINK THAT'S GONNA SETTLE IT?! GIMME MONEY! MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!

WE GOTTA GO TO A HOSPITAL TO GET HIM X-RAYED! THAT COSTS MONEY, AND YOU OWE IT TO US FOR HITTING HIM WITH THE BALL! DOES THAT MAKE SENSE TO YOU?!

B-BUT. .

YOU DON'T JUST APOLOGIZE AFTER SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

WHAT DO YOU WANT? WE'RE THE VICTIMS, HERE!

W-WAIT A MINUTE.

GYA HA HA.

I'M BORED AND I NEED MONEY. LET'S JUST BEAT THESE GUYS UP AND CHILL SOMEWHERE.

GYA HA HA HA!

OOOH, B-B-B-B-BUT...

.....

WHAT A FAG, RIGHT? WHAT SCHOOL DO THESE GUYS GO TO?

SHIT .. I KNOW THAT.

NO, HIYAMA, DON'T!

WE'LL GET DISQUALIFIED!

GYA HA HA! WHAT A LAME-ASS TEAM *THAT* MUST BE!

YEAH, YOU TOTALLY LOVE THAT GUY.

THEY AIN'T LIKE THE SENPAI WHO WENT TO MY SCHOOL, THAT'S FOR SURE.

HUH?

.....

WHAT? ARE YOU GUYS ON A HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM?

HE SAID HE'S TIRED OF HAVING A NEW CHICK EVERY DAY!

HELL YEAH! HE WAS TOUGH ENOUGH ALREADY, BUT ONCE HE JOINED THE BASEBALL TEAM IN HIGH SCHOOL, THE MAN IS LIKE, *UNSTOPPABLE*

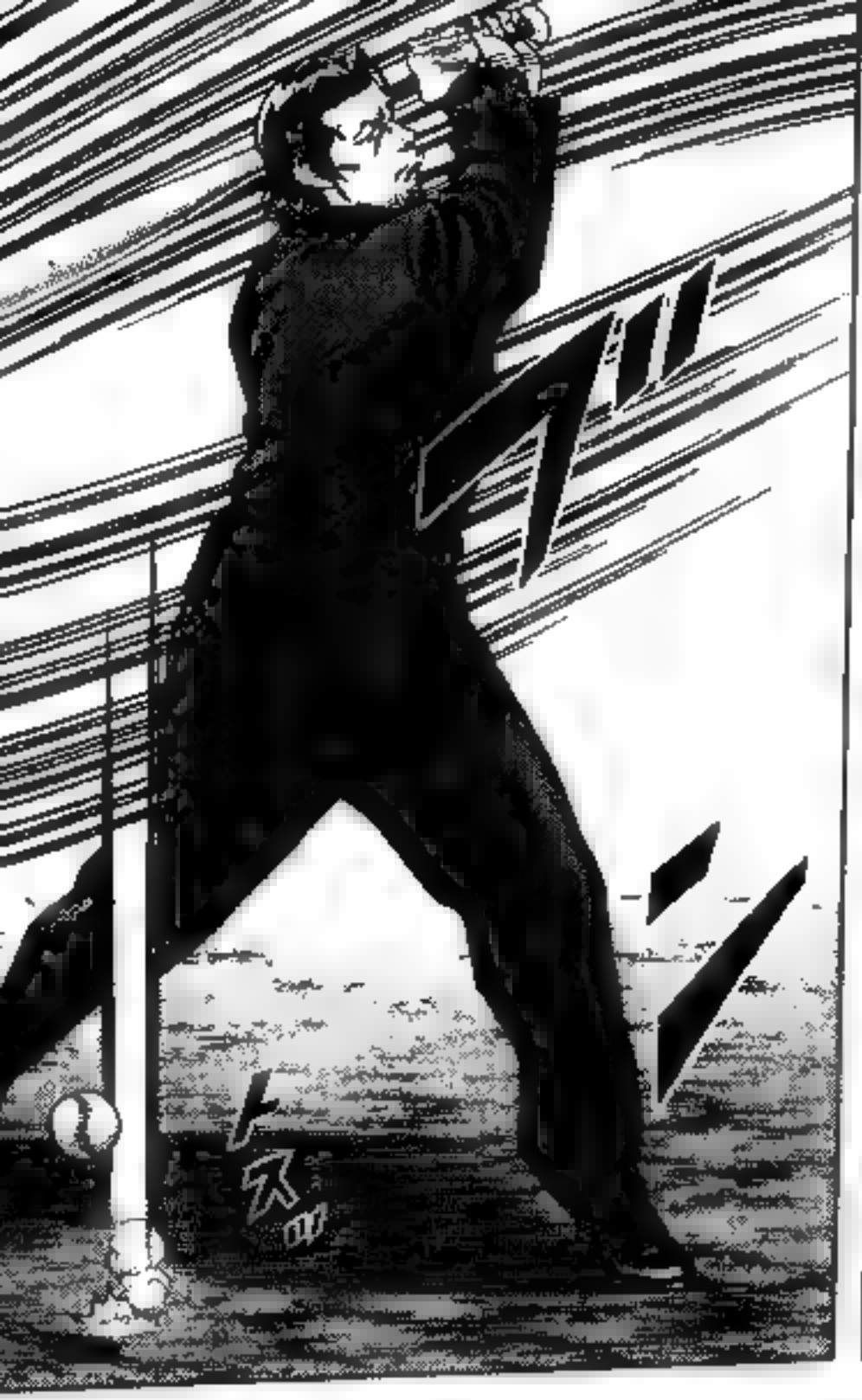
IF YOU WANNA LEARN BASEBALL,

YOU SHOULDN'T READ ABOUT IT IN A BOOK. YOU GOTTA ***FEEL*** IT FOR YOURSELF.

H-HEY, HIYAMA..

HERE I WAS, THINKIN' BASEBALL MIGHT BE KINDA COOL, AND YOU TOOLS ARE RUINING IT FOR ME.

OH YEAH, DIDN'T YOU BUY A BASEBALL BEGINNER'S MANUAL RECENTLY?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NO...
WHA...
S-
STOP..

S-
STOP!
DON'T
DO IT!

WAS THAT
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
JOKE?!
GYAHAHA
HAHAHA!
WHAT THE
FUCK?!
LET'S
JUST
KILL
HIM!

B-BUT! I HAVE A CONDITION!

GEEZ, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST PAY FIRST?

MIKO-SHIBA!

I-I'LL PAY YOU GUYS. .

YOU PLAY BASEBALL, RIGHT? IF WE CAN HIT YOUR PITCHING, WILL YOU LET US OFF THE HOOK?!

HUH ?!

LET US CHALLENGE YOU AT BASEBALL.

ARE YOU...

100, 000...

HUH?! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN...

I'LL PAY YOU 100,000 YEN!

WORDS AREN'T GOING TO CONVINCE THEM OF ANYTHING.

ARE YOU FUCKING *NUTS?!* DON'T GIVE THESE SHITHEADS MONEY!

DON'T WORRY. I *KNOW* I CAN HIT HIS PITCHING.

IT'S BETTER THAN LETTING THEM INJURE YOU.

OKAY, THEN. Y-YOU'RE ON.

BUT IF I DO IT, YOU HAVE TO DROP THIS WHOLE ARGUMENT ONCE AND FOR ALL.

THAT'S 100,000, REMEMBER!

G-GO ON, HAMANAKA. THAT'S 100,000 YEN.

R-RIGHT.

YOU CAN DO IT!

NO PITCH COUNT, JUST ONE SWING, AND IT'S WHETHER I HIT IT OR NOT.

FOULS DON'T COUNT EITHER WAY.

YOU'RE ON.

I'M A STAND-UP GUY.

HEH HEH... SURE.

HEY, WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HUH?

HEH... ONE SWING AND A MISS, AND I GET 100,000 YEN. CRAZY!

I'M SO GLAD I BOUGHT THAT MANUAL...

NO WORRIES, I CAN DO THIS...

IT WAS A BIG STATEMENT TO MAKE, BUT I DON'T THINK HE'D BACK DOWN UNLESS I SOLD IT THIS BIG...

!

NOT YOU.

THE BATTER HAS TO BE *HIM.*

WHAT ...?

WH...

SCARED OF A LITTLE MIDDLE-SCHOOLER! LOSER!

OR ARE YOU HIGH SCHOOL BALL-PLAYERS SCARED?

SHI...

DUH, GUYS! HE'S THE ONE WHO HIT THE BALL!

.....

THINK ABOUT IT WITH THOSE TINY BRAINS OF YOURS!

I'LL HIT WHATEVER HE THROWS AT ME.

DON'T WORRY

UH. I JUST MEANT

DON'T GIVE ME THAT SHIT RIGHT NOW!

GIMME THAT!

A-ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

THAT'S 100 BIG ONES!

100K!

COME ON, HAMA-NAKA!

YOU'RE GONNA BE ON THE BASE-BALL TEAM IN HIGH SCHOOL, MAN!

AND I'VE BEEN PRACTICING MY ASS OFF! IF I MISS HERE, I'M SERIOUSLY WORSE THAN HIRATSUKA... I'M OKAY! I'M OKAY... I HOPE...

ドゥ…

ドゥ…

I'M COOL, I KNOW I CAN HIT IT. HE'S JUST SOME DUMB MIDDLE-SCHOOLER...

ドゥ…

100,000 YEN!

ヤ…

HEH HEH.

!

ピチ…

HEH... THIS GUY'S A PIECE OF CAKE, I CAN FEEL IT.

YIKES, THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.

.....

.....

.....

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!

GYA HA HA HA!

.....

HAVE YOU EVER ACTUALLY PLAYED, BEFORE?!

.....

C-COME ON, HIYAMA...

THAT WAS A PERFECT PITCH.

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT!

JUST BE QUIET!!

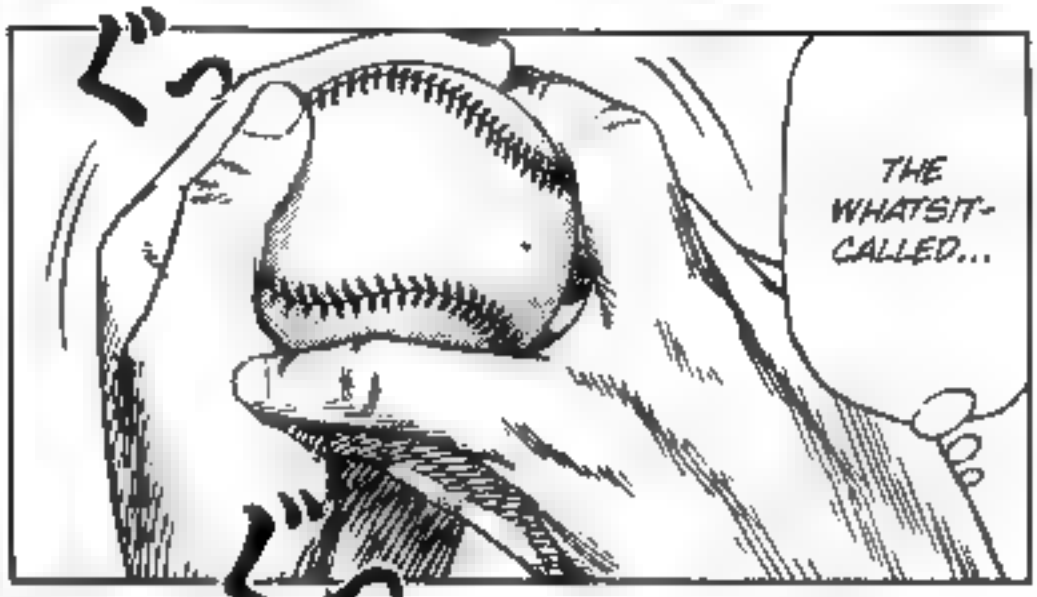
YOU HAVE TO TRUST YOURSELF MORE! YOU PRACTICED!

A-ARE YOU... NERVOUS?!

SHUT UP! I'LL PAY HIM!

COME ON, MAN!

NOW I'LL TRY THAT THING THE MANUAL MENTIONED.
HEH... WELL, THERE'S NO COUNT TO WORRY ABOUT.


THE WHATSIT-CALLED...

HEY...
UMM...

HIYAMA!

COULD WE SPLIT IT SO-EVEN?

HIRA-TSUKA!

WEREN'T YOU GONNA BEAT HIRA-TSUKA?!

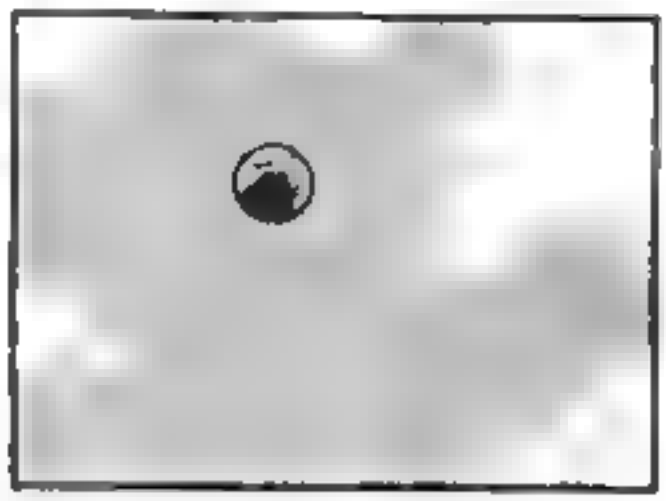
URYA AAA AAA!

AA AA!

DAA AAA AH!

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!

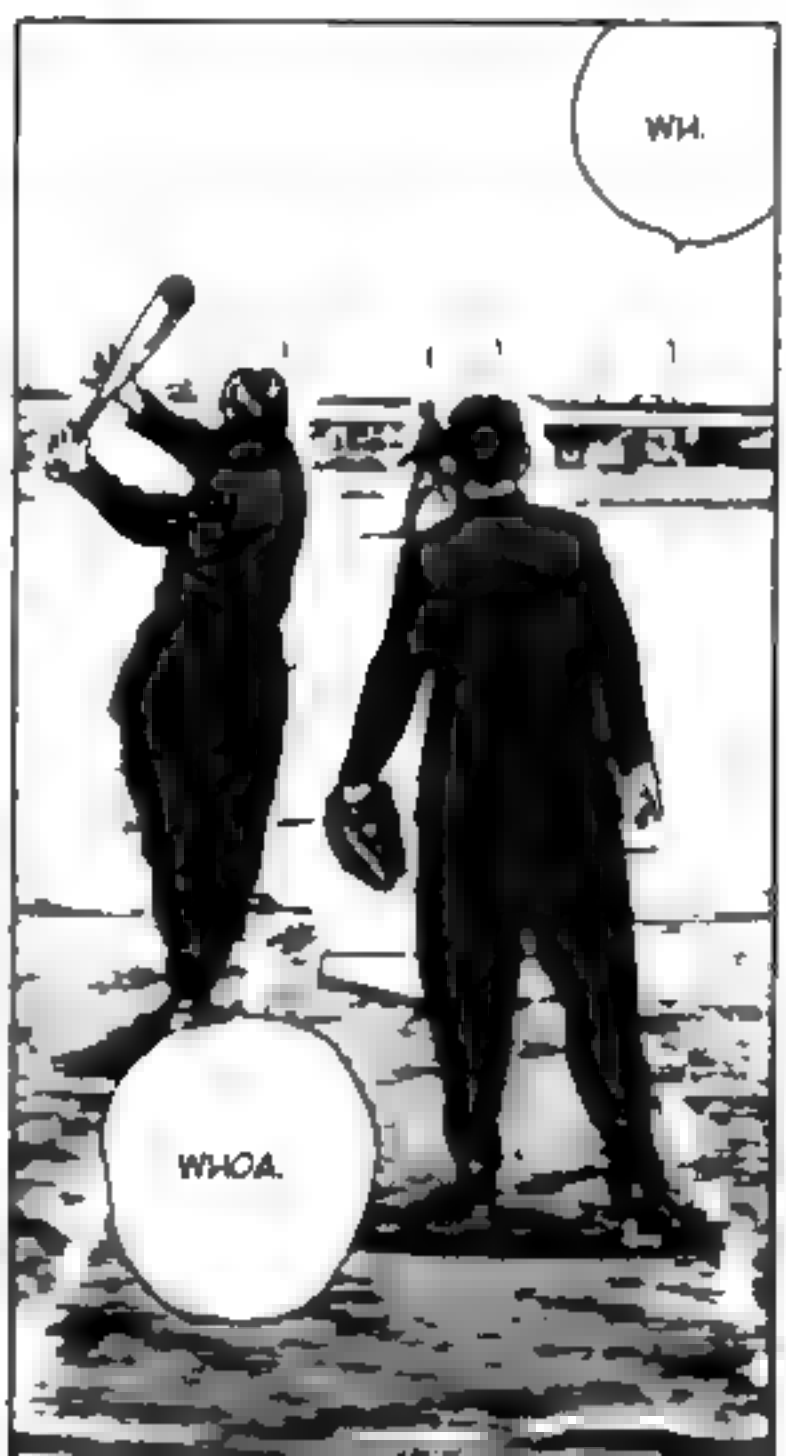
H'' H''



H-HE HIT THAT SHITTY PITCH.

HA. HA HA.

WAY OVER THE CENTER FIELD FENCE
.....


WH.
WHOA.

I KNOW YOU SAW THAT, YOU LITTLE SHITS!

THIS IS HIGH SCHOOL, PUNKS!

HA HA HAAAAA! YOU SEE THAT, FOOL?!

DID YOU SEE! THAT!

C-C'MON, HIYAMA!

LET'S GO!

FUCK YEAH, ME!

YEAA AAH!

SEE WHAT I MEAN?!

HEY! GET BACK HERE, DAMMIT!

WHAT-EVER, BUT NOW!

NO RUNNING! WE WALK OFF WITH HEADS HIGH!

SHIT, IF I WASN'T ON THE BASEBALL TEAM, I'D CRUSH ALL THOSE LITTLE TURDS WITH ONE HAND!

OH.

WHOA!

WAIT THE FUCK UP!

NNG!

SHUT UP! NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?

"HIRA-TSUKA-SENPAI" ?!!

AAAH! HIRA-TSUKA-SENPAI!

MMM?!

WHA...

The Legendary Fifth Rookies Group's version of Morita Masanori's Rookies can always be found at:

http://LegendaryFifthRookiesGroup.blogspot.com/

H., HIRATSUKA-SENPAI..?

. WHAT?

Y-YOU GUYS. .

ゴゴゴゴ

IS THAT YOU, HIRATSUKA-SENPAI?!

NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

.....

U

C'MON, HIYAMA, LET'S JUST GO!

ARE THESE KIDS FROM YOUR OLD SCHOOL? WHY DO WE HAVE TO RUN, THEN?

WE'RE GONNA KILL YA!

SENPAI! STOP THOSE GUYS!

GET BACK HERE!

HUH?!

GO ON, RUN OFF!

GO!

WHATEVER'S GOING ON HERE, LEAVE IT TO ME! I'LL HOLD 'EM OFF FOR YA! NOW MOVE IT!

Vol.135 Playing the Hero

STOP RIGHT THERE, BOYS!

WHOA!

AAH!

RRGH...

WE CAN'T LET THIS TURN INTO A FIGHT! PEOPLE WILL BE WATCHING!

AAAAH! DAMN!

THEY'RE GETTIN' AWAY!

.....

WHY DON'T YOU TE... ME THE STORY?

I RECOGNIZE THOSE FELLOWS.

AHA.

I SEE, THEN.

EXACTLY! WOULDN'T YOU BE PISSED?

SO THEY BET YOU 100,000 YEN, AND WHEN THEY HIT YOUR PITCHING, YOU GOT ANGRY AND WANTED TO BEAT THEM UP

WHOA! GEEZ.

YOU FOOOO-OOLS!

.....

WHEN HE HIT YOUR PITCH, THE ARGUMENT WAS ENTIRELY OVER!

YOU HAVE NO EXCUSE FOR SNAPPING, AFTER THAT! NONE AT ALL!

YOU LET THE MONEY CLOUD YOUR EYES, YOU PATHETIC NITWIT!

IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF HIM WINNING THE BET, THEN DON'T BET AT ALL!

H... HIRA-TSUKA-SAN...

SO BE MEN, YOU WORTHLESS LITTLE MAGGOTS!

WHAT DOES A MAN SAY? HE SAYS, "I LOSE! I'M FORFEITING MY COMPLAINT ABOUT BEING HIT WITH THE BALL. I'M GOING TO FORGET THIS ENTIRE EVENT, LIKE A MAGAZINE I JUST THREW AWAY"!

. . W .

MAN, I FORGOT HOW YOU ALWAYS KNOW JUST THE RIGHT THING TO SAY OR DO, HIRATSUKA-SAN.

SORRY !

WE'RE VERY SORRY!

MISTAKE !

WE MADE A MISTAKE!

OHO!

GET THIS, HIRATSUKA-SAN! THIS GUY WANTS TO PLAY BASEBALL IN HIGH SCHOOL, SO HE CAN BE JUST LIKE YOU.

HEH HEH.

IT'S HOW A REAL MAN DOES THINGS.

HMPH.

AND DON'T SMOKE, SON. IT'S BAD FOR YOU.

KEH HEH HEH.

W-WELL... I HEAR THAT *YOU* STILL GET A LOT OF LADIES, HIRATSUKA-SAN...

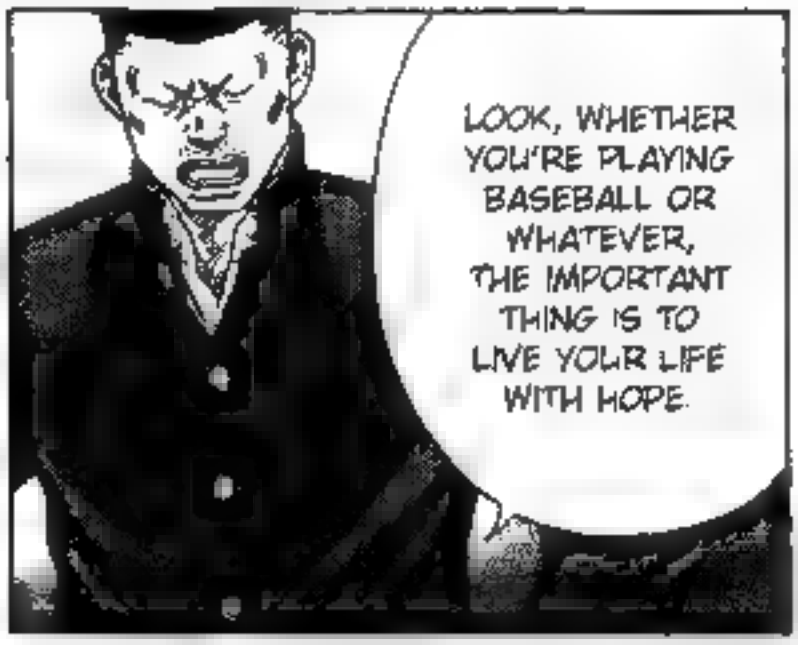
G-GOSH..

IF YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO MAKE YOU A HIT WITH THE CHICKS, THINK AGAIN.

BUT FOR NOW, I'M KEEPIN' IT STEADY WITH THE TEAM MANAGER.

I DID MY SHARE OF PARTYING, FOR SURE..

THAT'S TRUE.


LOOK, WHETHER YOU'RE PLAYING BASEBALL OR WHATEVER, THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO LIVE YOUR LIFE WITH HOPE.

YOU WORKED YOURSELF DOWN TO ONE GIRL? MAN, YOU'RE A STAND-UP GUY.
I CAN'T JUST BE A PIMP AND A PLAYER ALL MY LIFE.
.....

BY TAIRA HIRATSUKA.
FLUTTER INTO YOUR DREAMS.
GLITTER INTO TOMORROW.

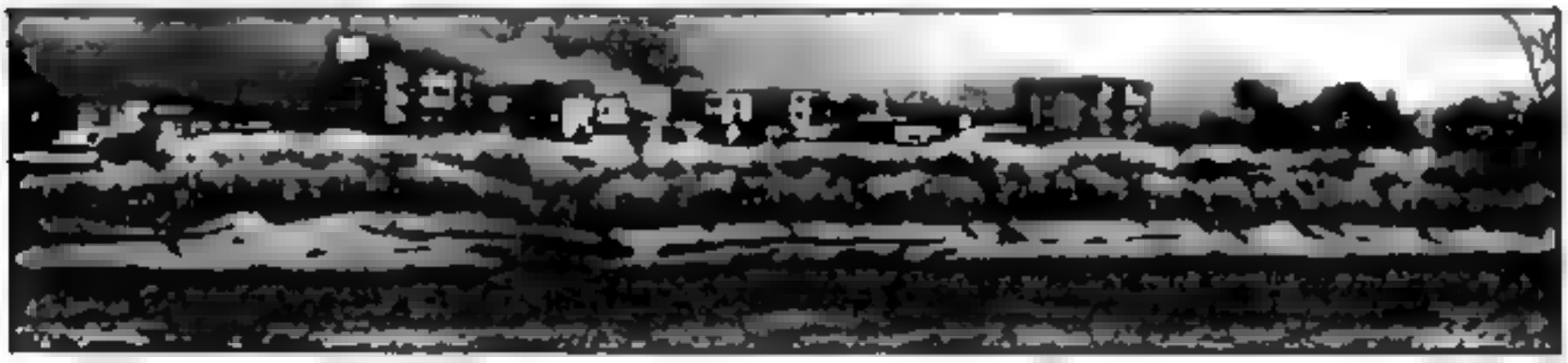
HIRATSUKA-SAN'S THE TEAM'S STARTING PITCHER AND HE THROWS 150 KILOMETERS AN HOUR, ALL AS A FIRST-YEAR!
AIN'T THAT RIGHT?!

WHOAAA! THAT'S AWE-SOME!
.....

.....

OF COURSE HE WOULD! THAT'S INSULTING JUST TO ASK.
I BET YOU TOTALLY WOULD'VE WHOOPED THOSE NERDS WE JUST SAW ONE-HANDED.

I GUESS.



WHO CARES *WHEN* WE PLAY?

WHAT, YOU MEAN THERE'S A RULE?

I WANT TO PLAY IN A STADIUM, WITH A REAL CROWD.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PRACTICES GAMES ARE ALLOWED TO RESUME ON MARCH 15TH.

.....

WHY?

WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT? YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, MAN!

HIRATSUKA COULD TAKE OVER SHORTSTOP FROM YOU.

YOU MIGHT NOT MAKE THE STARTING LINE-UP.

YEAH, PINCH HITTING HIM FOR YOU WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE, EVEN IF HE DID GET LUCKY.

.....

THAT HOME RUN WAS A BIG BOOST FOR HIM, LUCKY OR NOT.

.....

WELL, BASED ON BATTING AVERAGE, YEAH. YOU'RE HITTING 125 TOTAL, AND HIRATSUKA'S 1-FOR-5, WHICH WOULD BE .200.

HE'S WAY BETTER THAN HE USED TO BE.

.....

DON'T BE THAT WAY! HIYAMA'S GETTING BETTER AT IT.

DON'T BE STUPID THAT GUY ONLY PULLS MIRACLES IN A PINCH-HIT SITUATION.

USE HIYAMA FOR THE NORMAL SPOT IN THE ORDER, UNTIL YOU NEED THE BIG HIT.

NO, IMAOKA'S ACTUALLY PRETTY HANDY WITH THE BAT

THEN LET IMAOKA SIT ON THE BENCH AS THE RELIEF PITCHER, AND HAVE EITHER HIYAMA OR HIRATSUKA PLAY LEFT FIELD, INSTEAD.

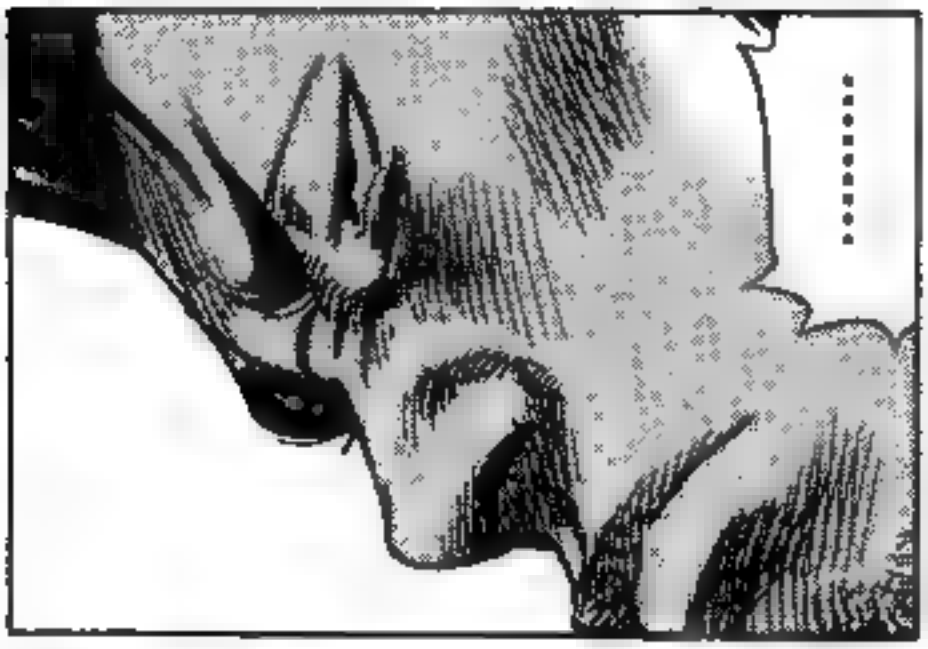
.....

JUST LET HIRATSUKA WARM THE BENCH.

HIYAMA'S LEARNING THE ROPES; LET'S JUST USE HIM FOR NOW

HMMM.

HIYAMA. .


.....

WHOA...
W-
WHAT'S
THE BIG
DEAL?
YOU
SCARED
ME, MAN.

ガ"
♬ I'M
FEELIN' GOOD,
GOOD, GOOD,
FEELIN' GOOD,
GOOD, GOOD,
GOOD ♬

.....

HMM
?!

YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME? JUST *TRY* IT.

WHAH?

.....

SHIT.

.....

?

SEEMS HE HEARD ABOUT US BEATING MEGUROGAWA, AND WAS ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED

OH, YEAH. REMEMBER OUR FORMER PRINCIPAL MURAYAMA? HE SENT A LETTER TO THE TEAM!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, HIYAMA?

WE'RE ABOUT TO START THE LAST HOME ROOM OF THE DAY.

.....

HE SAID YOU WERE WONDERFUL YOUNG MEN.

HE SAID THAT HE'S REAFFIRMED HIS BELIEF IN THE VALUE OF PURSUING DREAMS.

DON'T BE SILLY. EVERYONE ON THE TEAM CONTRIBUTED TO THAT WIN.

MAN, I DIDN'T EVEN DO NOTHIN' IN THAT GAME.

HEY, HIYAMA!

.....

.....

MAKE SURE YOU COME TO PRACTICE.

OF COURSE I WILL!

GUESS IT'S TIME FOR A BIT O' PRACTICIN'

MM!

MM!

MM!

MM MM MM!

BALDER-DASH.

IT WAS ALL LIES.

IT *WAS* INSPIRING, WASN'T IT?

THAT WAS REALLY WEIRD YESTERDAY, HIRACCHI. DO YOU USUALLY TELL THOSE GUYS STUFF LIKE THAT?

SHUT UP!

YOU ARE SUCH A SWINDLER, HIRACCHI.

BESIDES, I DO PLAN ON COURTING OUR FAIR MANAGER SOMEDAY VERY SOON.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH FILLING YOUNG HEADS WITH DREAMS?

W-WHAT'S UP, HIRACCHI?

.....

!

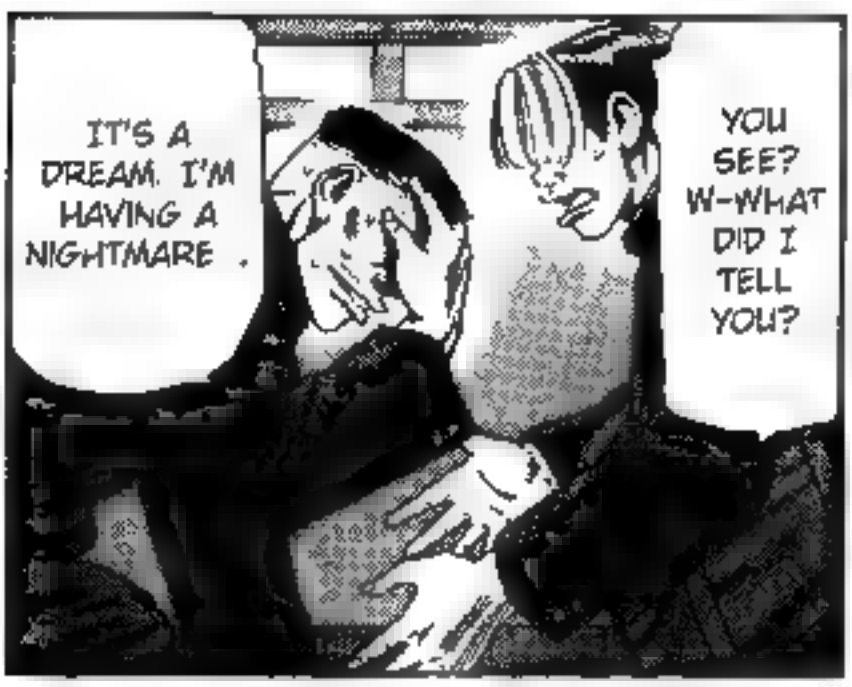
BESIDES, I'M...

WHAT'S WRONG?

HOLY SHIT... *HOLY* SHIT...

H... H... H...

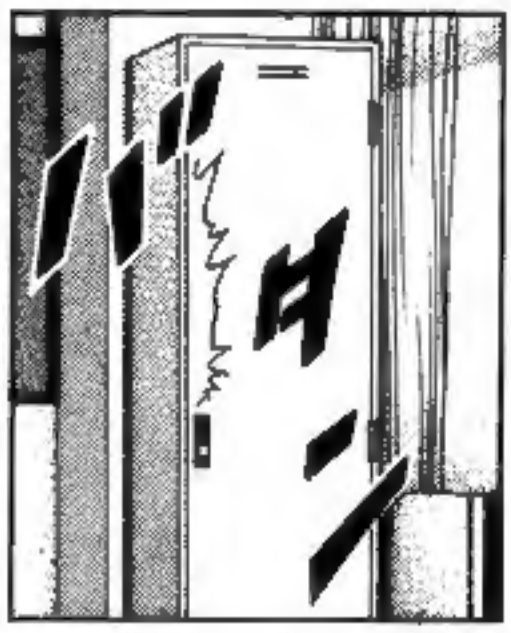
MMM?

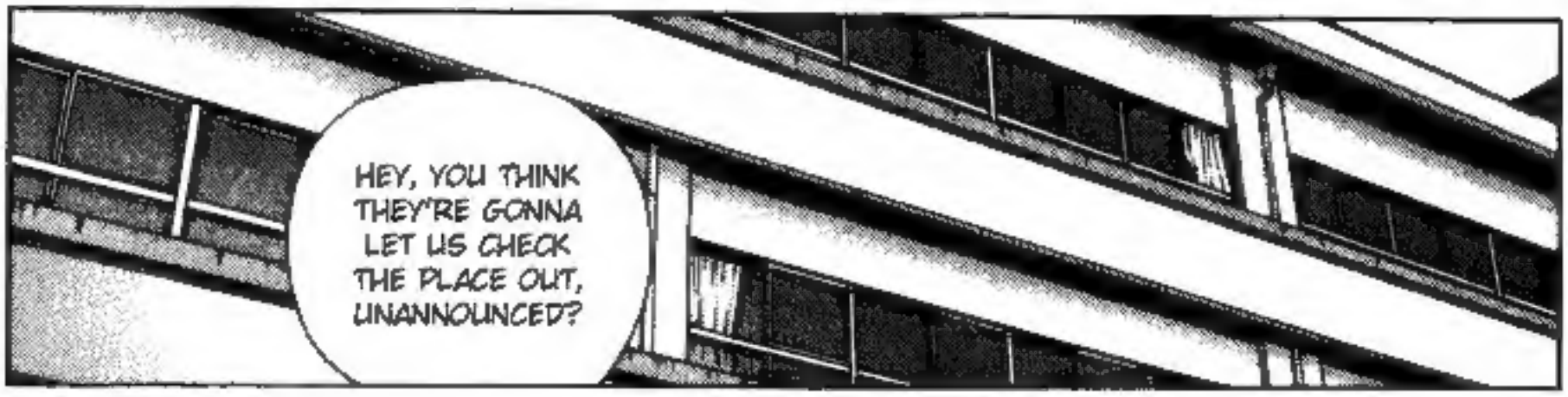

IT'S A DREAM. I'M HAVING A NIGHTMARE .
YOU SEE? W-WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

W-W-WHAT THE *HELL* ARE THEY DOING H-HERE .?

AAAH, I CAN'T DO THIS!

CHILL OUT, HIRACCHI!





HEY, THE BASEBALL TEAM!

BUT ISN'T THE NIKOGAKU TEAM, LIKE, SUPER CRAZY? THEY GOT SUSPENDED FROM PLAY FOR FIGHTING AT A GAME.

I MEAN, SURE, HE'S THE TEAM'S ACE TO OUTWARD EYES, BUT BEHIND THE SCENES, HE RULES THIS SCHOOL.

WELL, I BET HIRATSUKA-SAN WORKED THEM INTO SHAPE WITH HIS SUPERHUMAN CHARISMA.

HUH? HIRATSUKA?

WHO ARE THEY, MIDDLE-SCHOOLERS?

IS HIRATSUKA-SAN HERE?

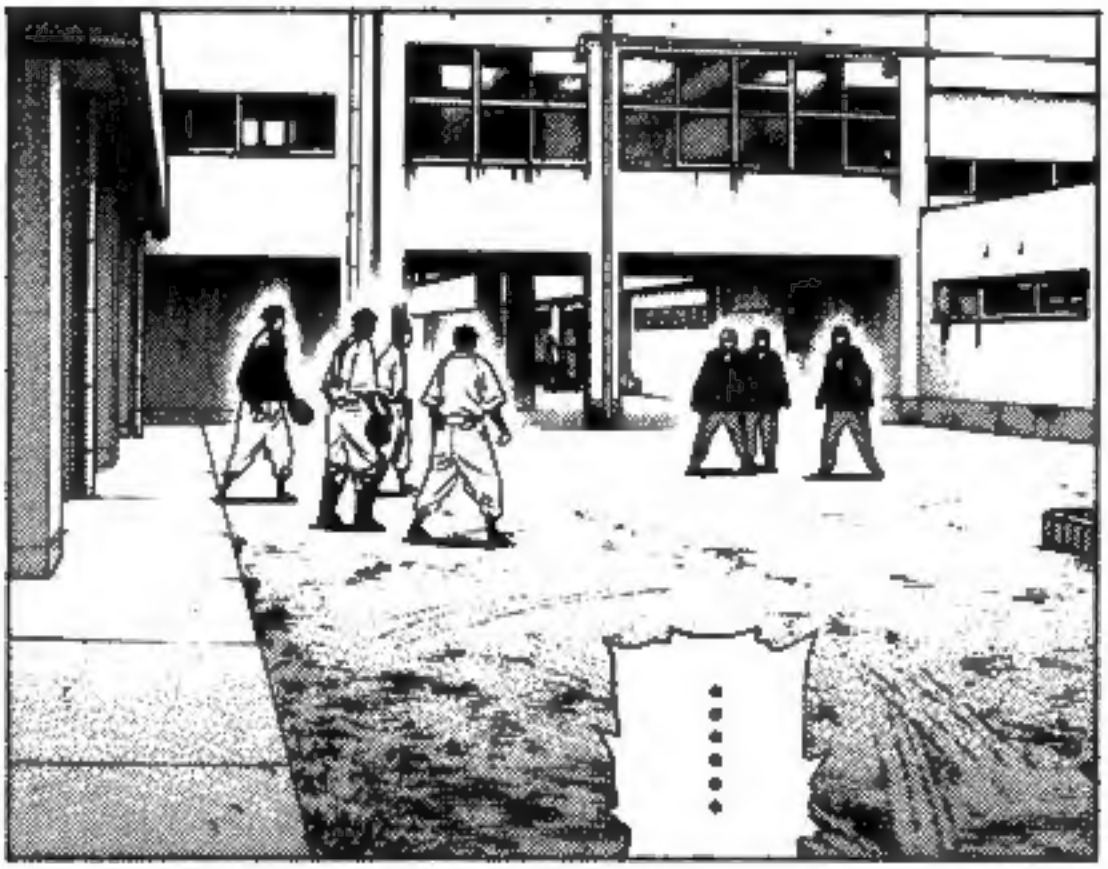
YO!

Y-YOU GUYS WERE FROM NIKOGAKU?!

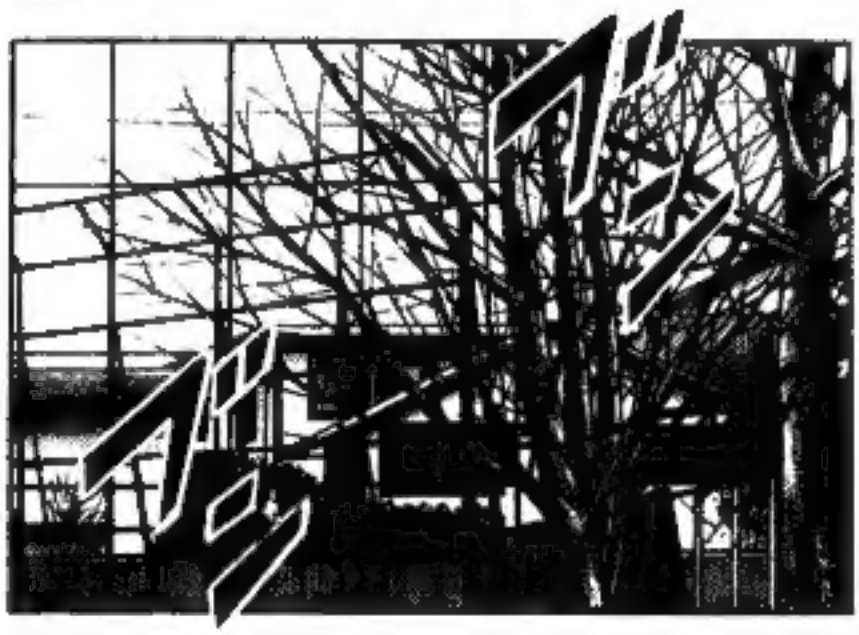
AAA AAA AH!

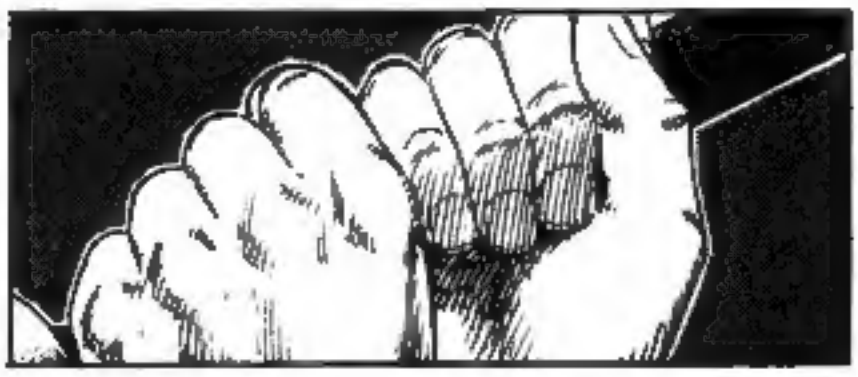
OH!

IT'S YOU!



I DON'T LIKE THIS KID'S ATTITUDE.
Y-YEAH...
YOU KNOW THEM, MIKOSHIBA?





.....
YOU CAN'T DO THIS, HIRACCHI!

HUFF.
HUFF.

14スタートライン(完)

■ジャンプ・コミックス

ROOKIES

14スタートライン

2001年4月9日　第1刷発行

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©STUDIO HITMAN　2001
編　集　ホ　ー　ム　社
東京都千代田区一ツ橋2丁目5番10号
〒101-8050
電話　東京　03(5211)2651

発行人　山　路　則　隆

発行所　株式会社　集英社
東京都千代田区一ツ橋2丁目5番10号
〒101-8050
03(3230)6233(編集)
電話　東京　03(3230)6191(販売)
03(3230)6076(制作)
Printed in Japan

印刷所　中央精版印刷株式会社

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ISBN4-08-873102-6　C9979